

# Fundamentals of Crystallography

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Brookhaven Biology

# **First: What is your background?**

Think about where you fit in these lists:

**Graduate student**  
**Post Doc**  
**Beyond Post Doc**

**Math**  
**Physics**  
**Chemistry**  
**Biology**  
**Medicine**

# Outline for the Lecture

- Remind you how much you already know -- lenses, crystals
- Show why crystals give diffraction spots.
- Develop the idea of “The Reciprocal Lattice”
- Give some idea how we might actually measure diffraction data
- Show how, given a crystal, we can calculate the diffraction pattern
- Conversely, show how to calculate the structure from the diffraction
- Describe the importance of symmetry to diffraction
- Outline the structure-solving methods -- heavy atoms and MADness

# The idea here:

- Firstly, we're going to try to understand how things work.
- Then we'll try to use that understanding to figure out how to solve a few problems one might meet in doing crystallography.
- Perhaps then you'll be able to solve *many* problems in crystallography.



# The idea here:

- We're not going to spend time working through how to solve problems in crystallography.
- Instead, we're going to try to understand how things work.
- If we can understand, then we can figure out how to solve almost any problem.

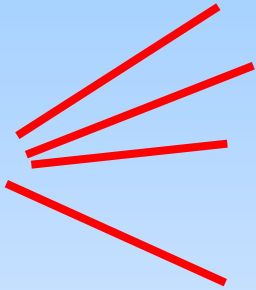
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# Creation of a molecule's image from a crystal has similarities to creating an image with a lens

**LIGHT**

**X-Rays**



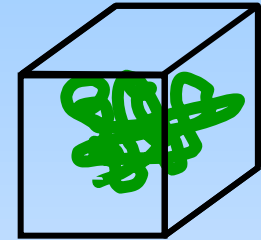
**Detector**



**Computer**

**Fourier**

**Synthesis**



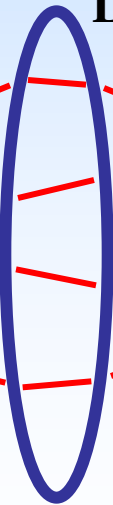
*Object*

*Image*

**Visible**

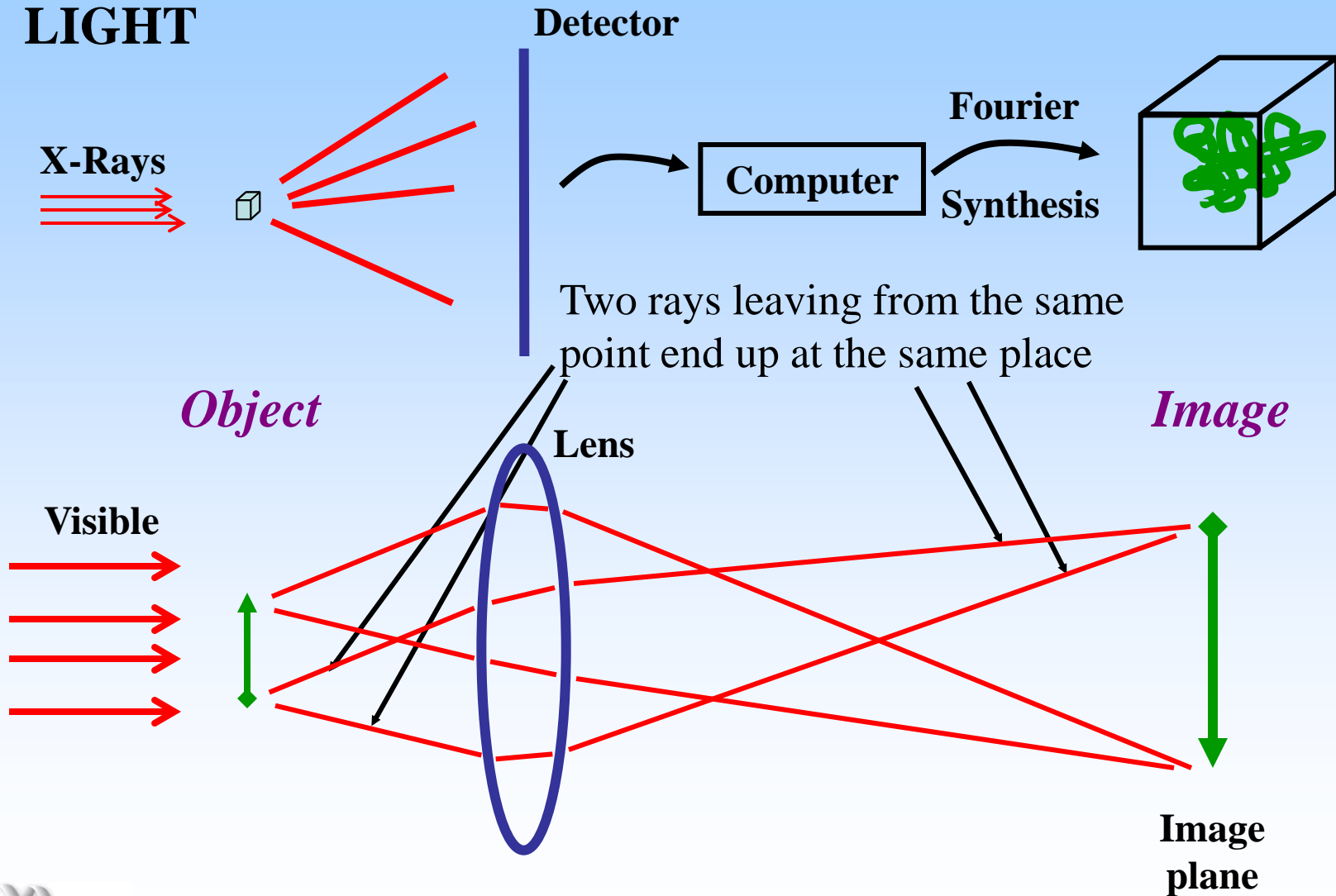


**Lens**



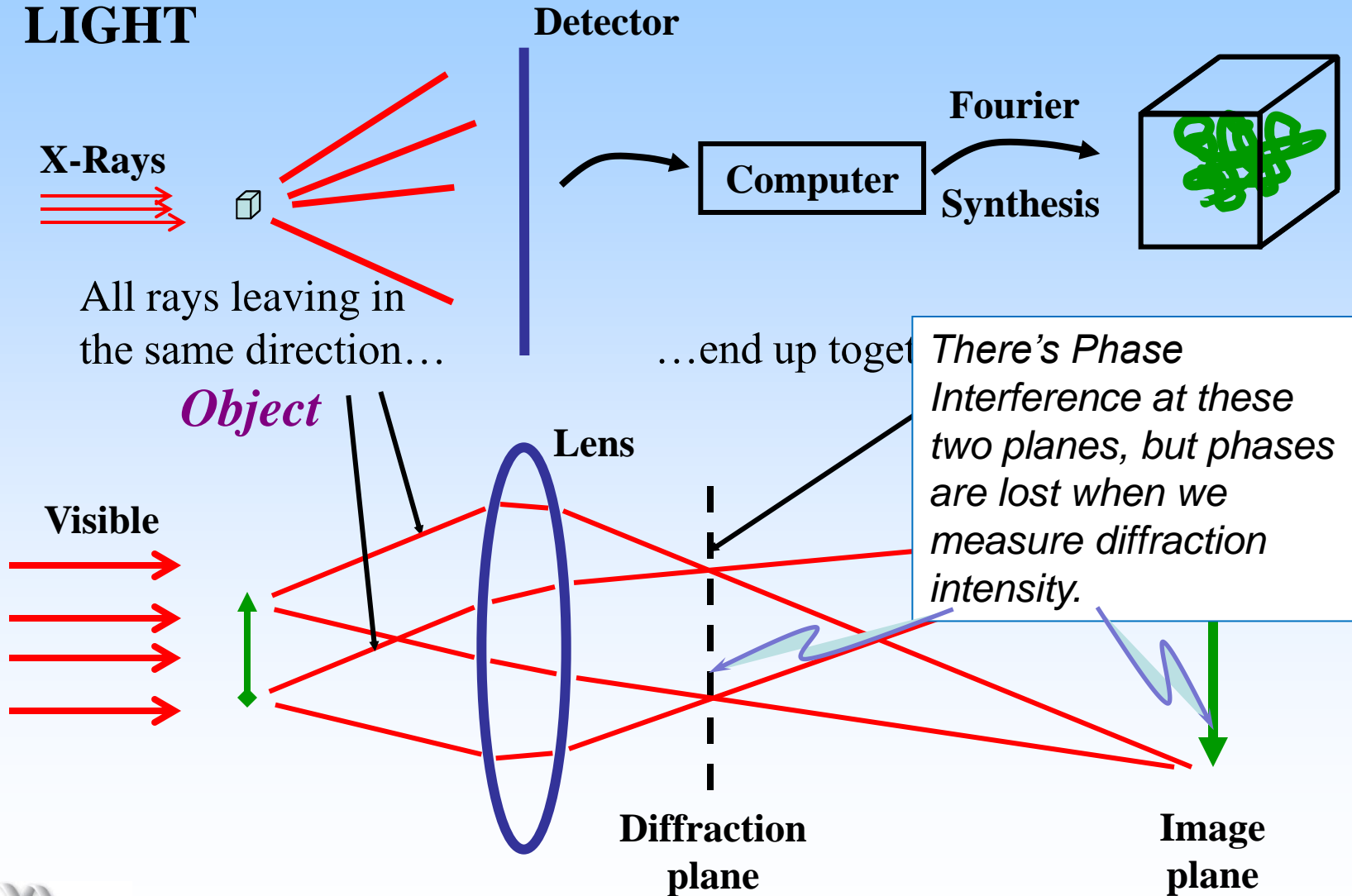
**Image plane**

# You already understand a little about how lenses work



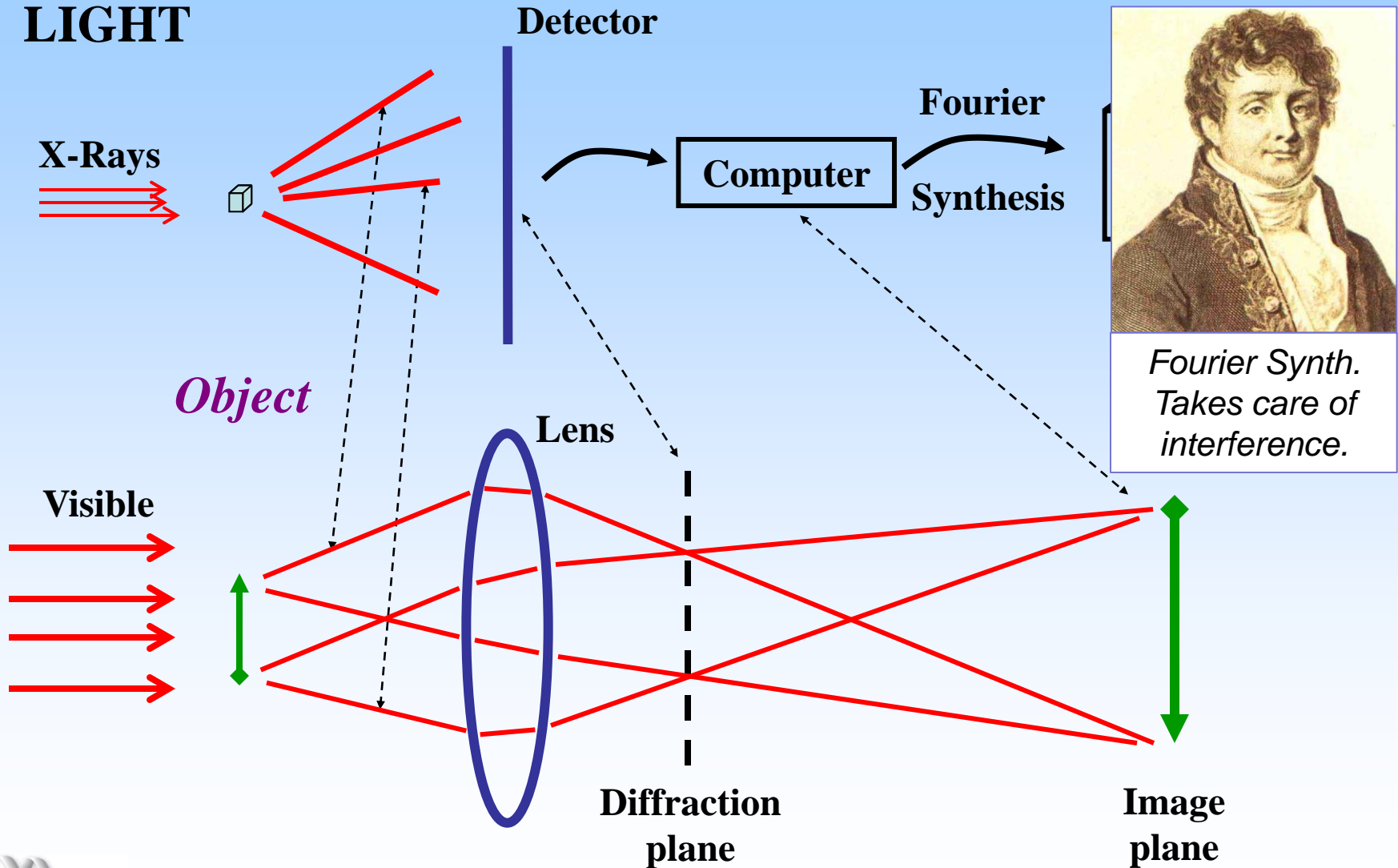
# Maybe you didn't know ...

## LIGHT



**We use a crystal to give us diffraction, and computation to do the rest of the work of the lens.**

**LIGHT**



**We'll see that the diffraction pattern  
gives information about the  
dimensions and periodicity of each  
view of the object.**

# Why do we use **x-rays**?

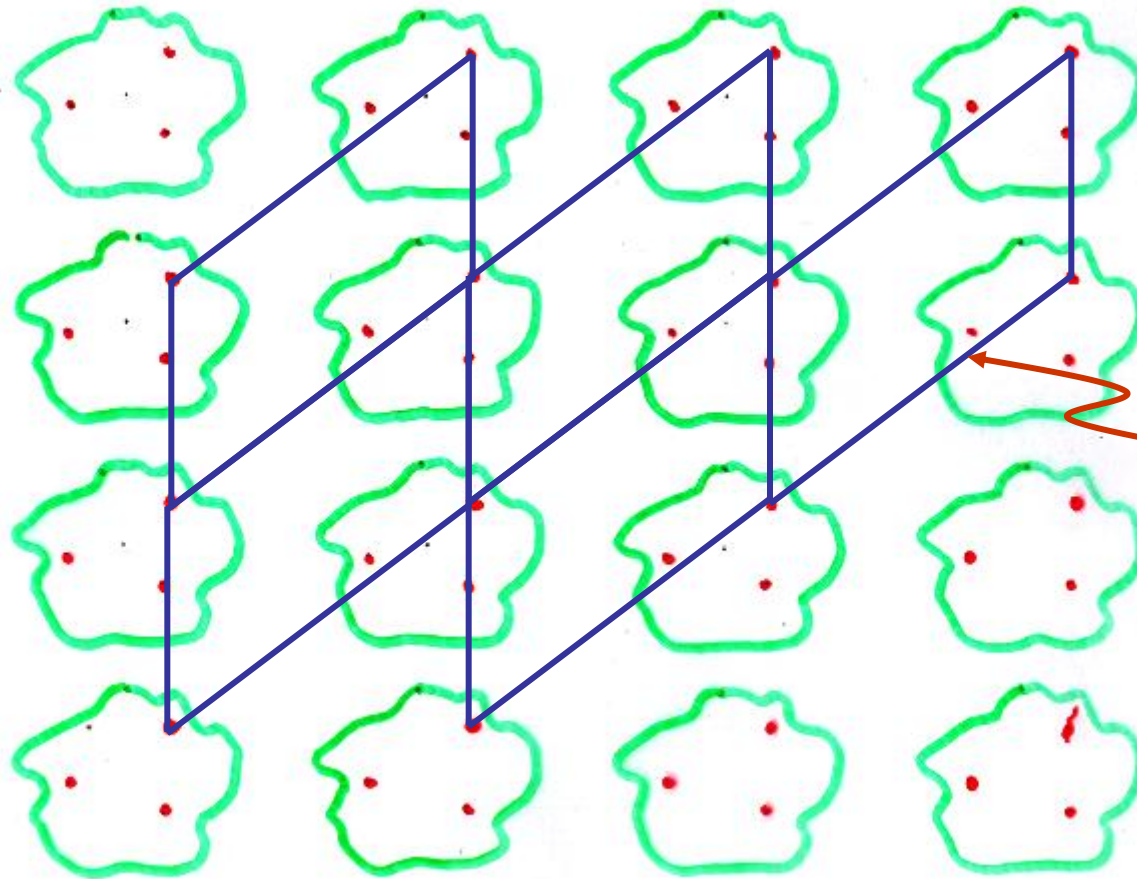
- The features we're trying to see are on the order of the **distance between atoms:  $10^{-10}$  meters**.
- To “see” the atoms, we need to use light with a **wavelength** that is near to **this distance**.
- X-Rays (x-ray light) have a **suitable wavelength**.
- The x-rays are scattered by the electrons on the atoms so what we **see** is the **electrons**.



# What is a **crystal**?

- A crystal is a **periodic arrangement** of objects (molecules) repeating in two or three dimensions.
- The **repeating unit** is a parallelepiped (in 3-D) or a parallelogram (in 2-D).
- A crystal of a typical protein will be half a mm on a side and contain  **$10^{15}$  molecules**.

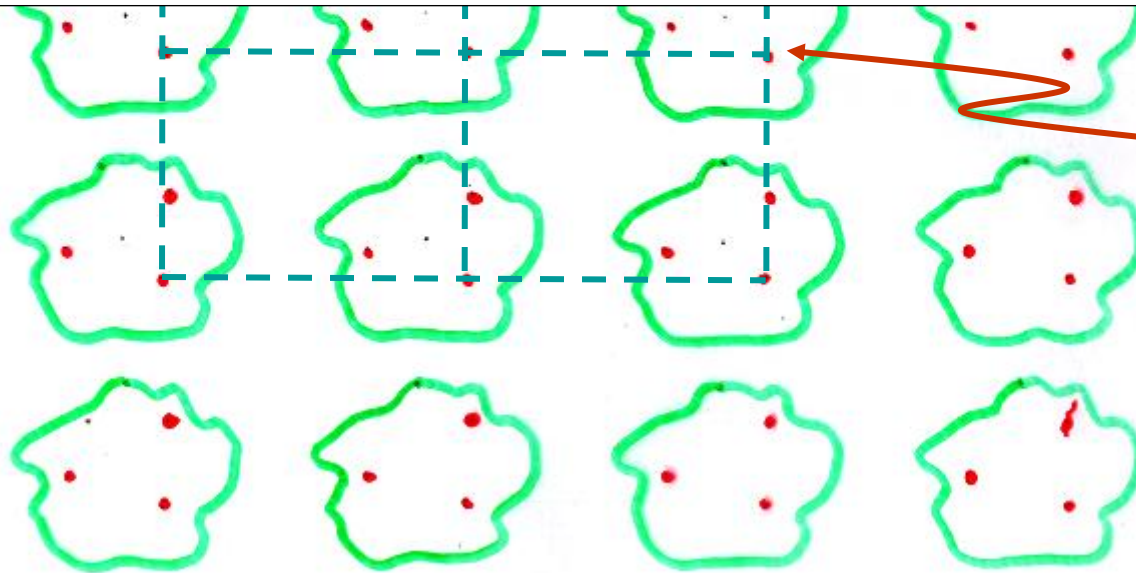
# Here's one choice of repeating unit in this crystal made of apple trees



Parallelograms  
defining crystal  
repeat.

# We could make a different choice of repeating unit

*In both cases the repeating unit (**Unit Cell**) has the same AREA, or VOLUME for a three-dimensional crystal.*



Other  
parallelograms  
defining crystal  
repeat.

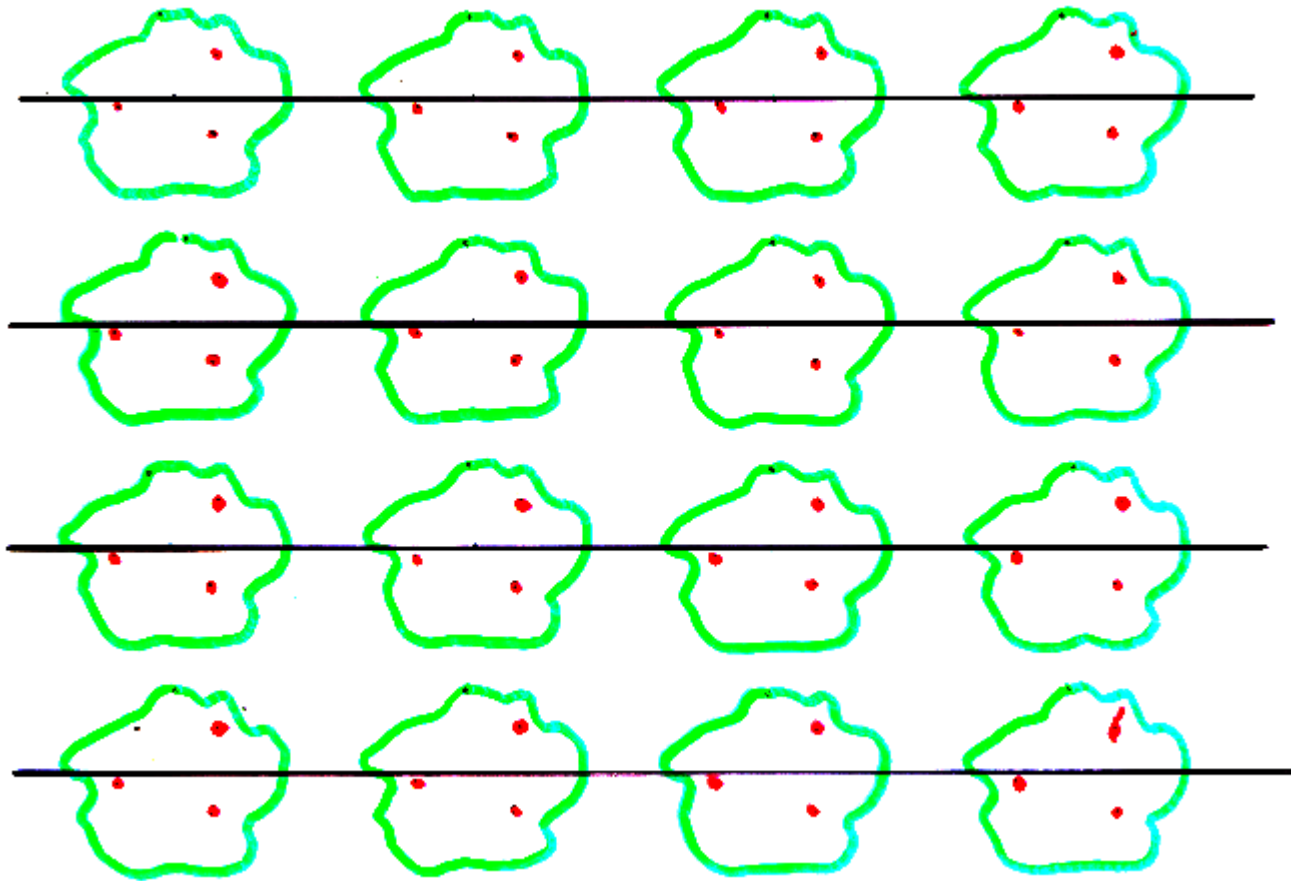
# Why do we use crystals when we'd like to see one molecule?

- We can't **focus** enough x-rays into a small enough volume to “see” a molecule. We use lots of molecules in a **crystal** to get a bigger target.
- Even if we could focus them, the x-rays would **burn up** the molecule.
- Even if that would work, we **don't have a lens** for the x-rays.
- The crystal **amplifies the signal**, and gives us a way to get the **phase information** back.

**Let's return to our crystal made of apple trees, and define “planes” in that crystal.**

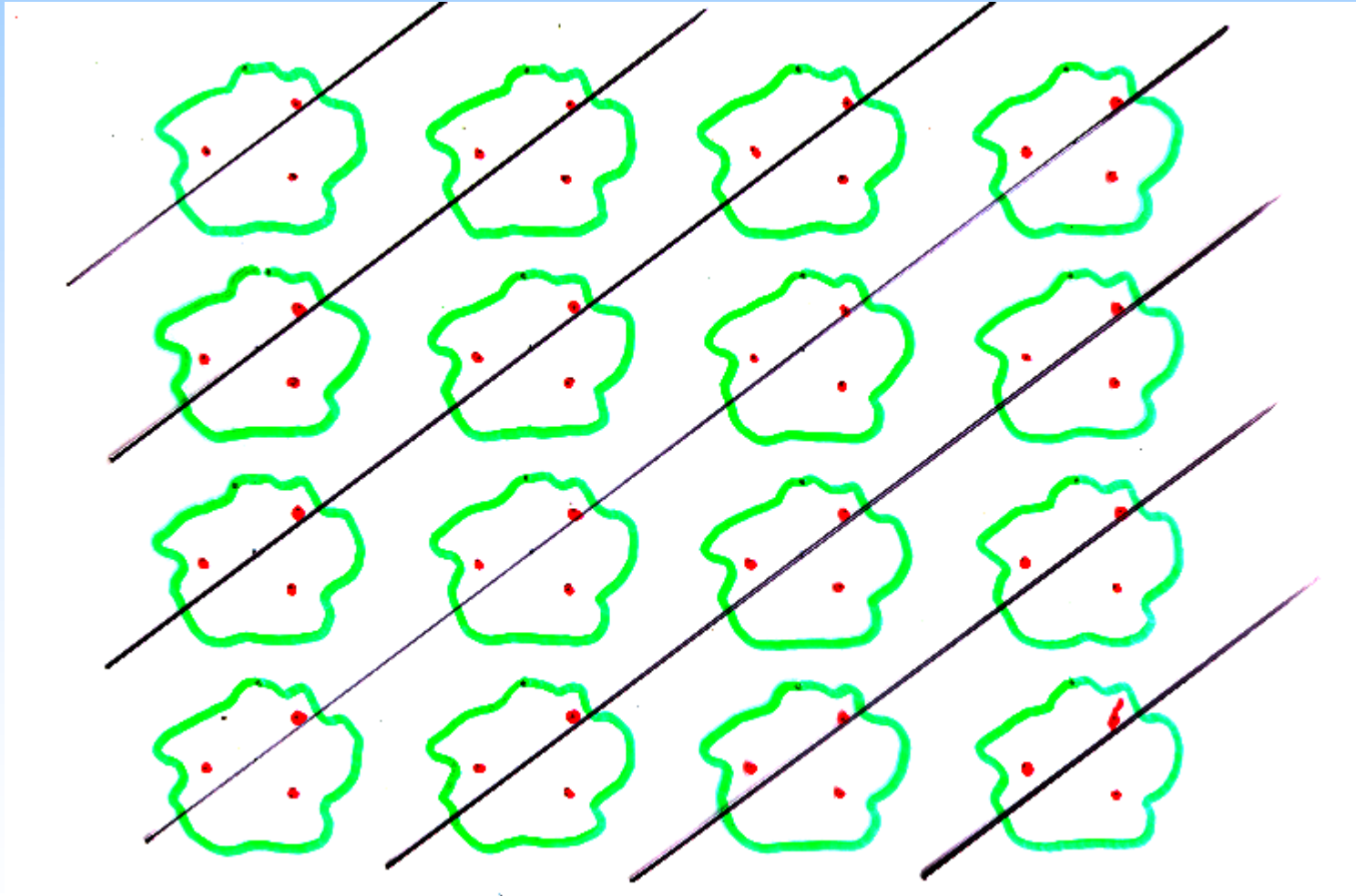


We can slice the crystal at **lattice points**:  
all planes pass through the same apple



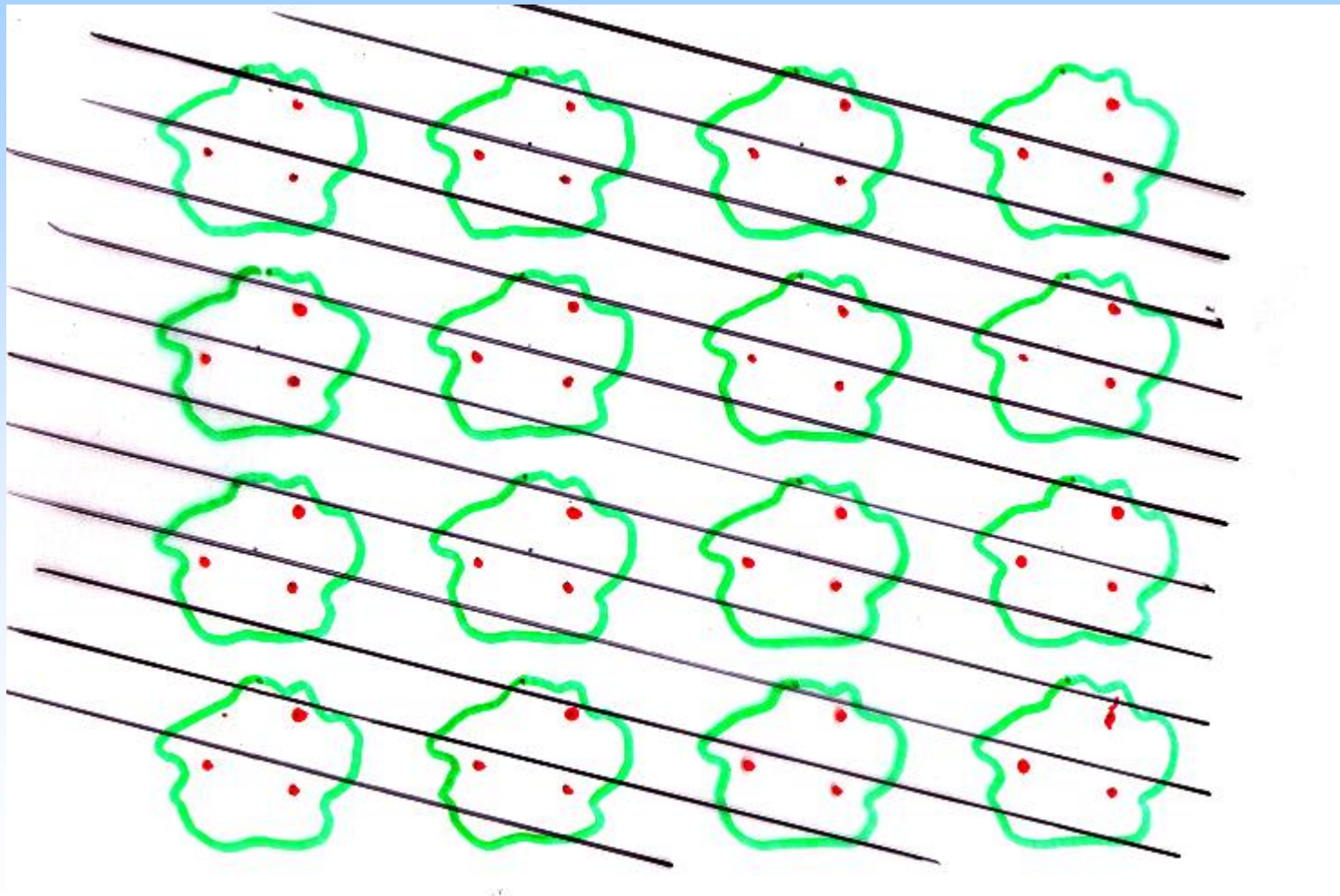
# And at other angles. Notice:

- planes all pass by the same apple;
- the “stuff” between pairs of planes is always the same.





# And one more time...



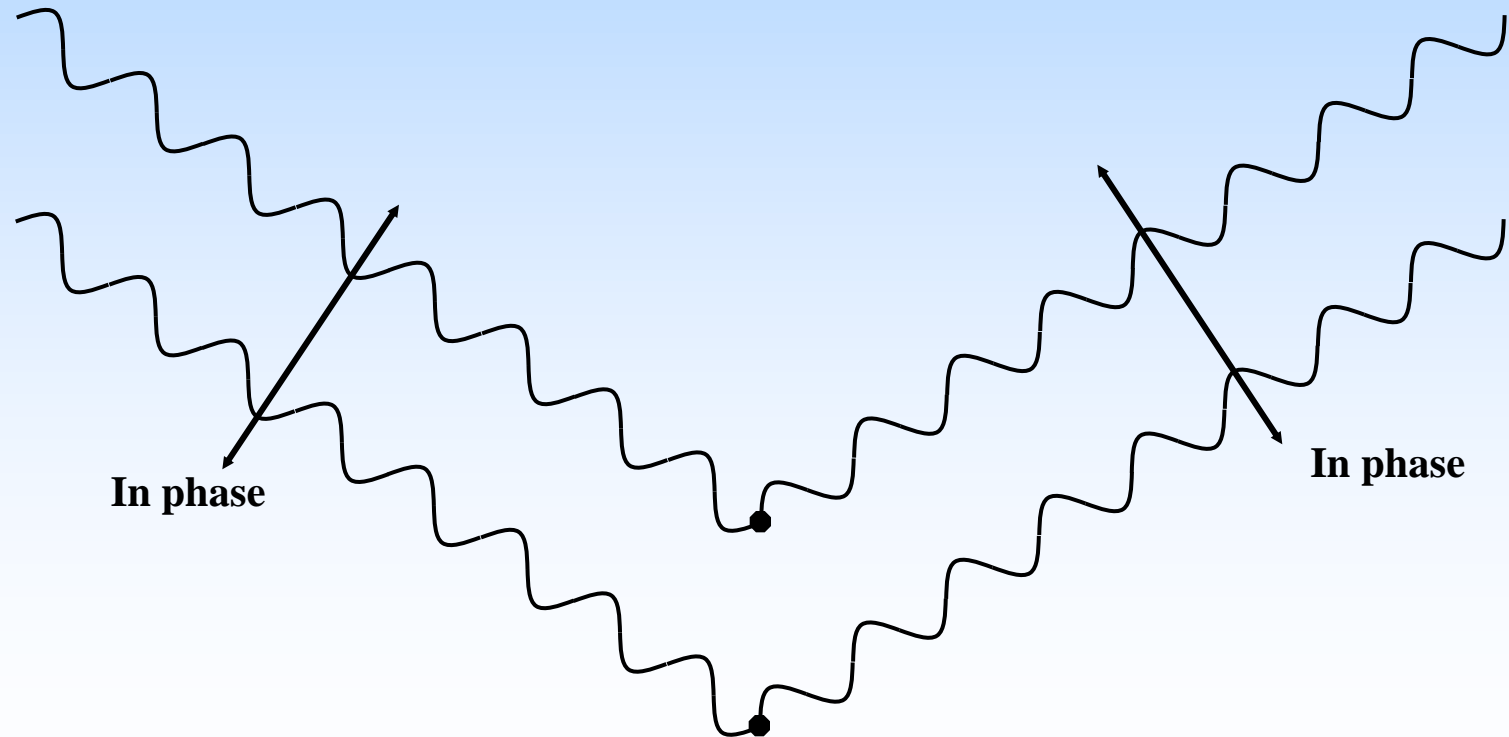


# Outline for the Lecture

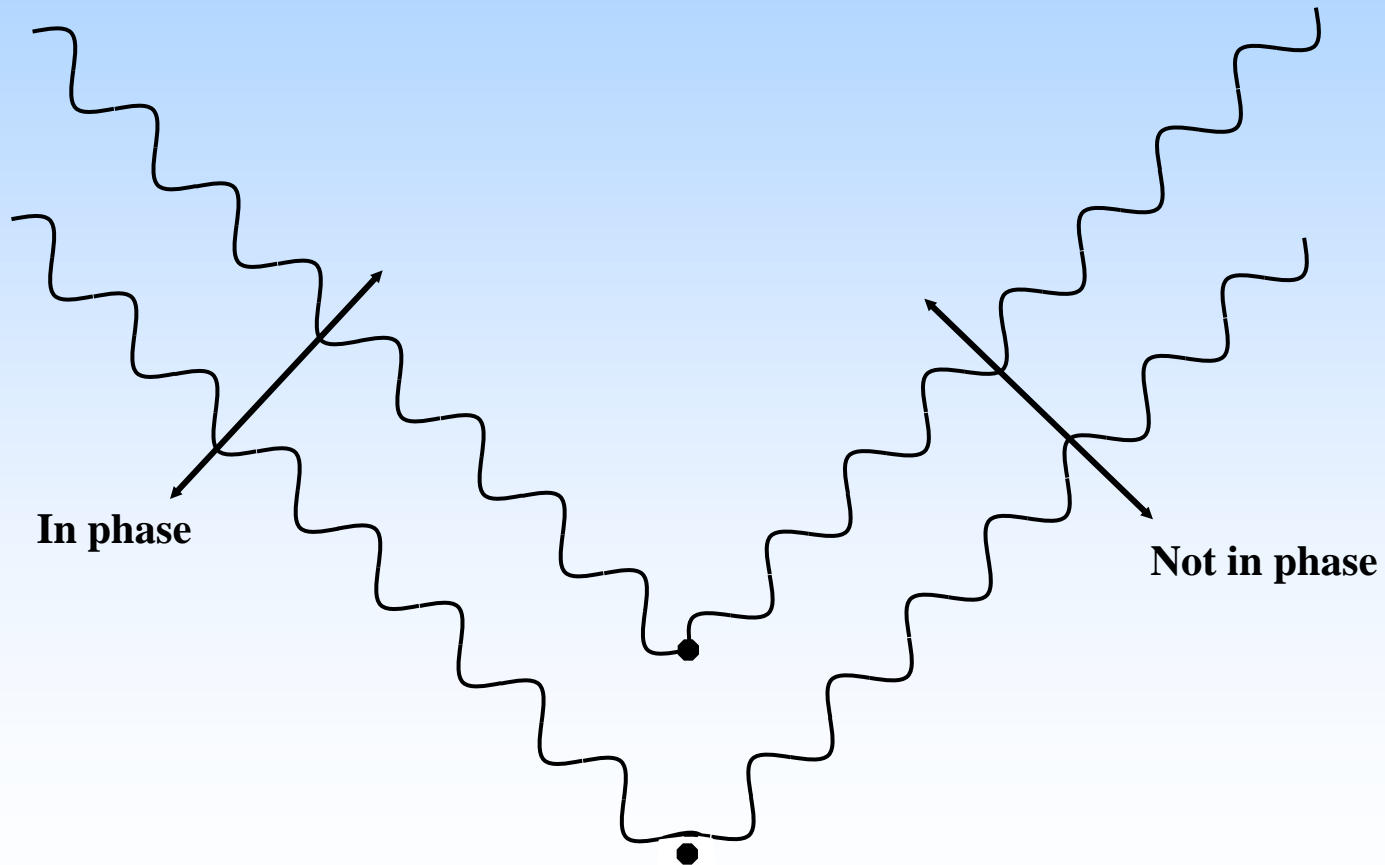
- Remind you how much you already know -- lenses, crystals
- **Show why crystals give diffraction spots.**
- Develop the idea of “The Reciprocal Lattice”
- Give some idea how we might actually measure diffraction data
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# Diffraction – Let's do a thought experiment.

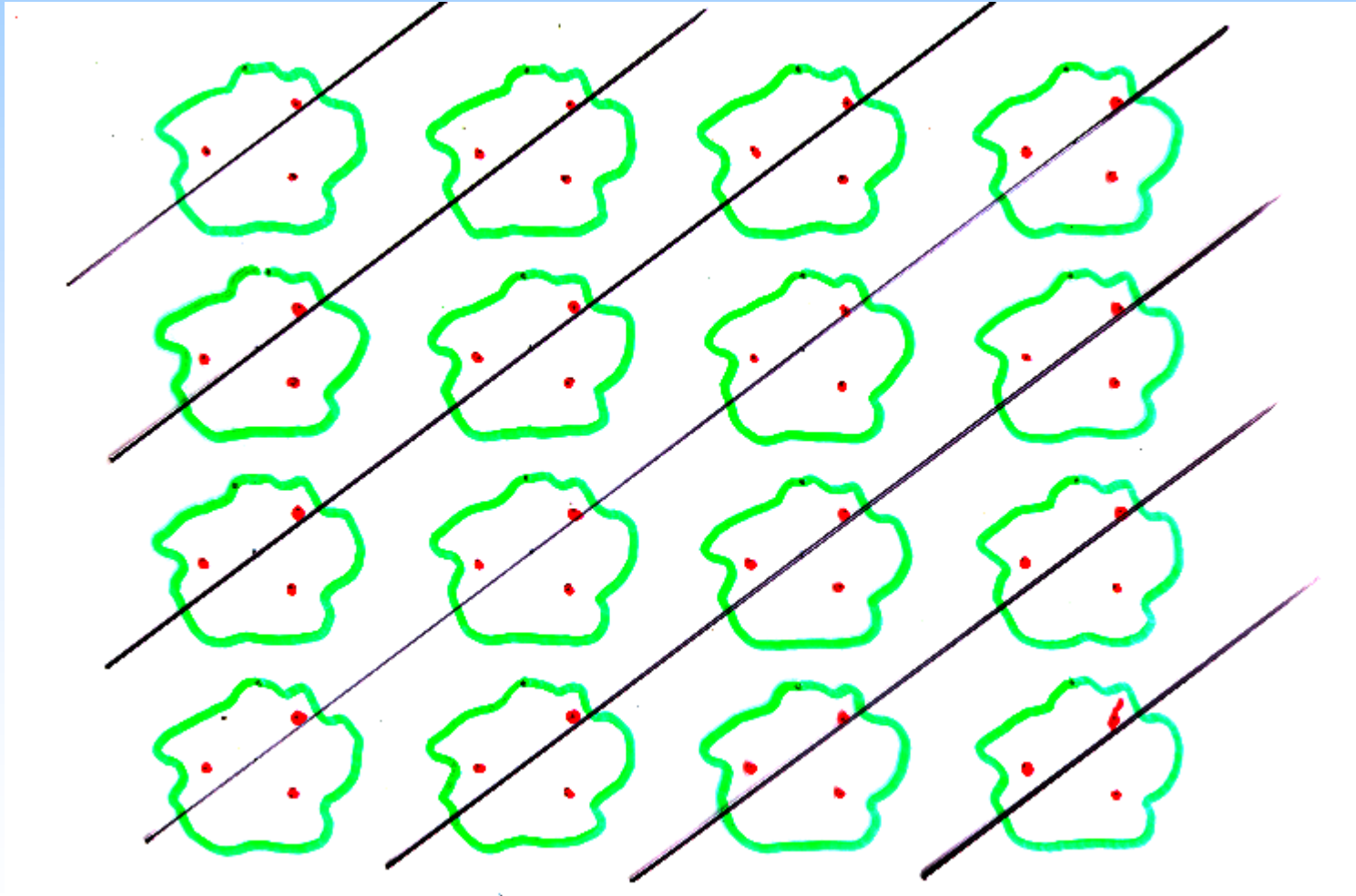
- Think of the material between the lattice planes as just two atoms, suspended in space.
- Send a beam of x-rays at these atoms.
- If the angle is just right for the wavelength and distance between the atoms, the scattered x-rays will be in phase, and they will interfere constructively.

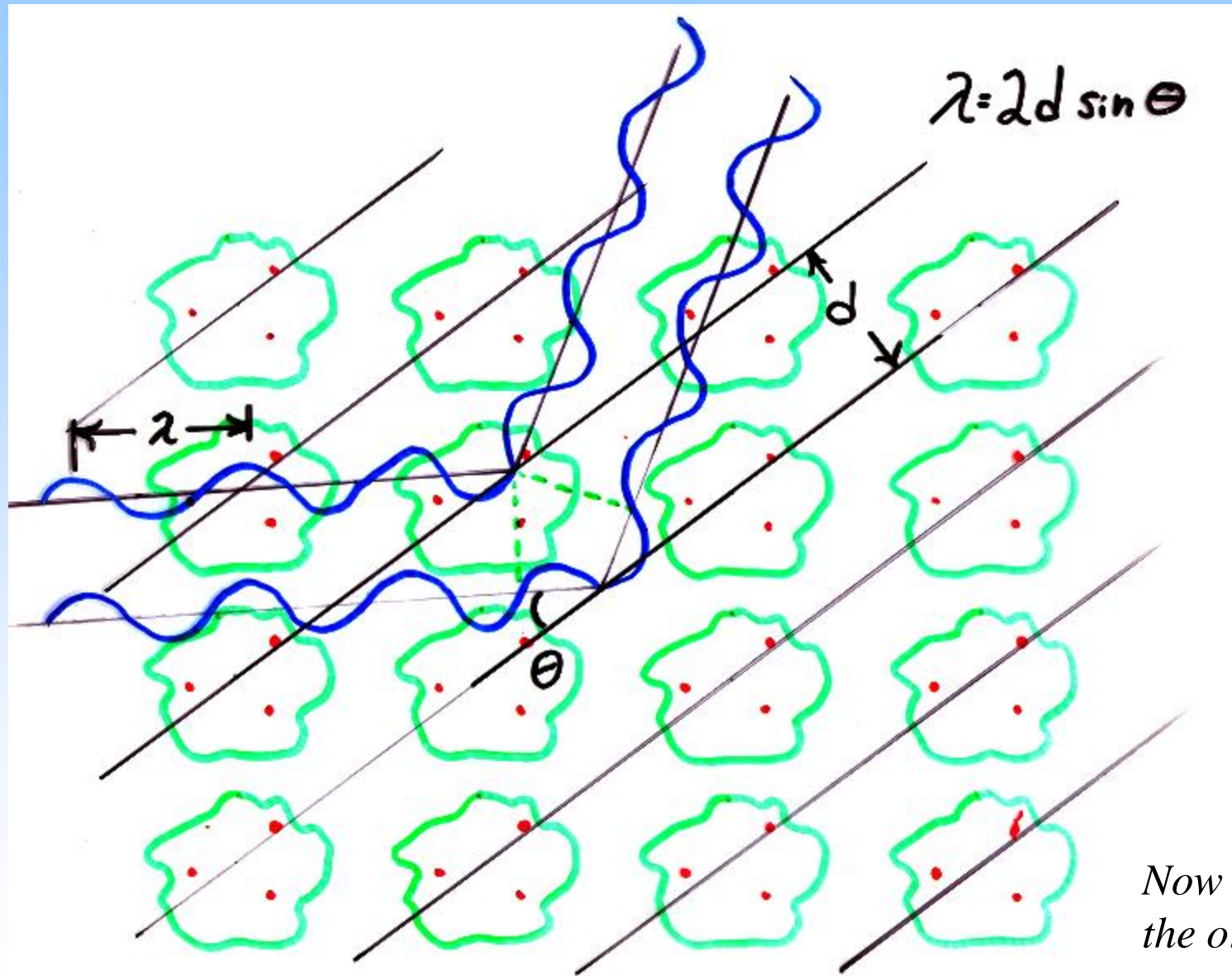


**On the other hand, if things are not right,  
they won't be in phase, and there will be no  
constructive interference, no diffraction.**



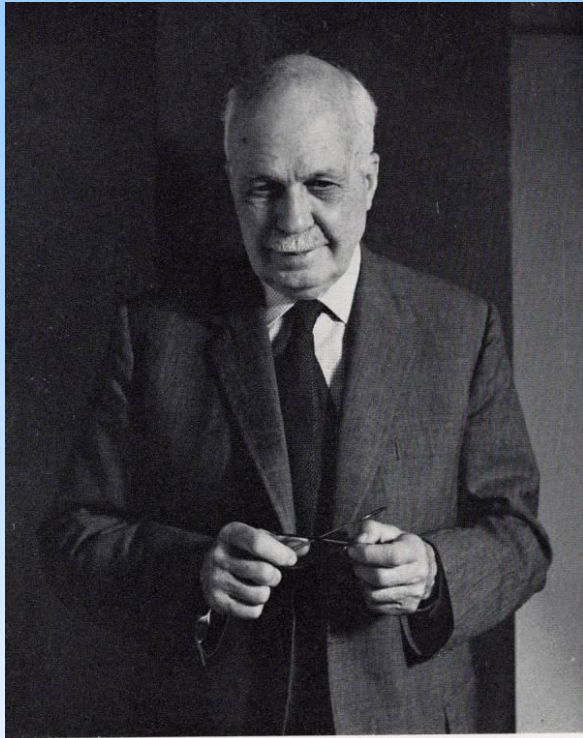
**Now, as we think of the stuff between the lattice planes as being like each of those two atoms, we try to write a law that will show conditions to get diffraction.**





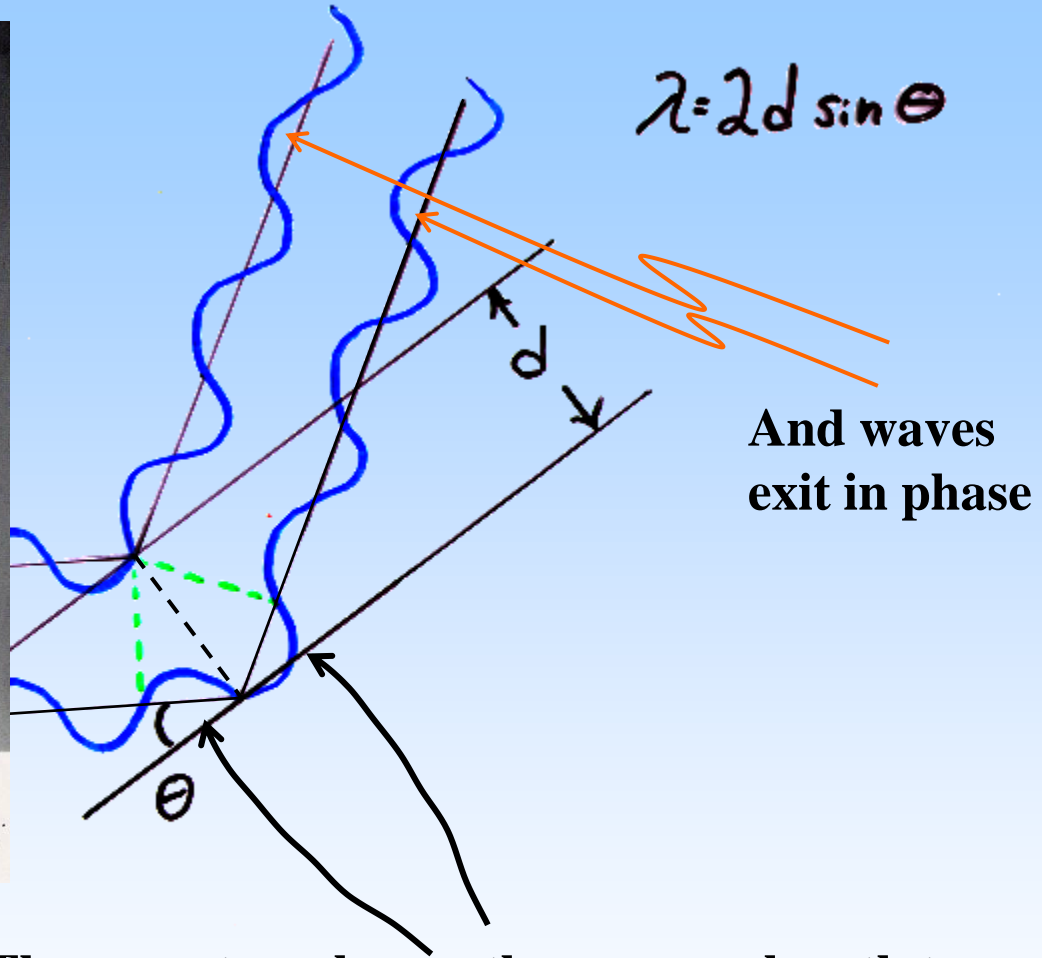
*Now get rid of  
the orchard...*

# Bragg's Law describes diffraction as reflection from planes



W. L. Bragg

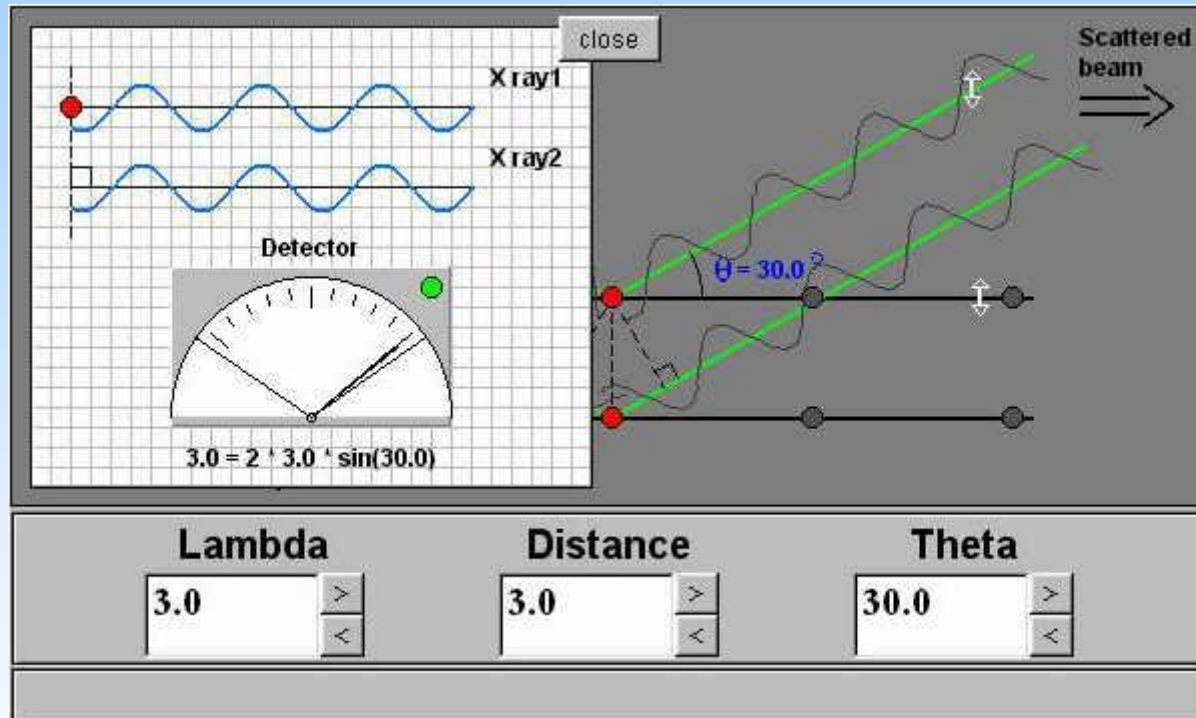
Waves come in  
“in phase.”



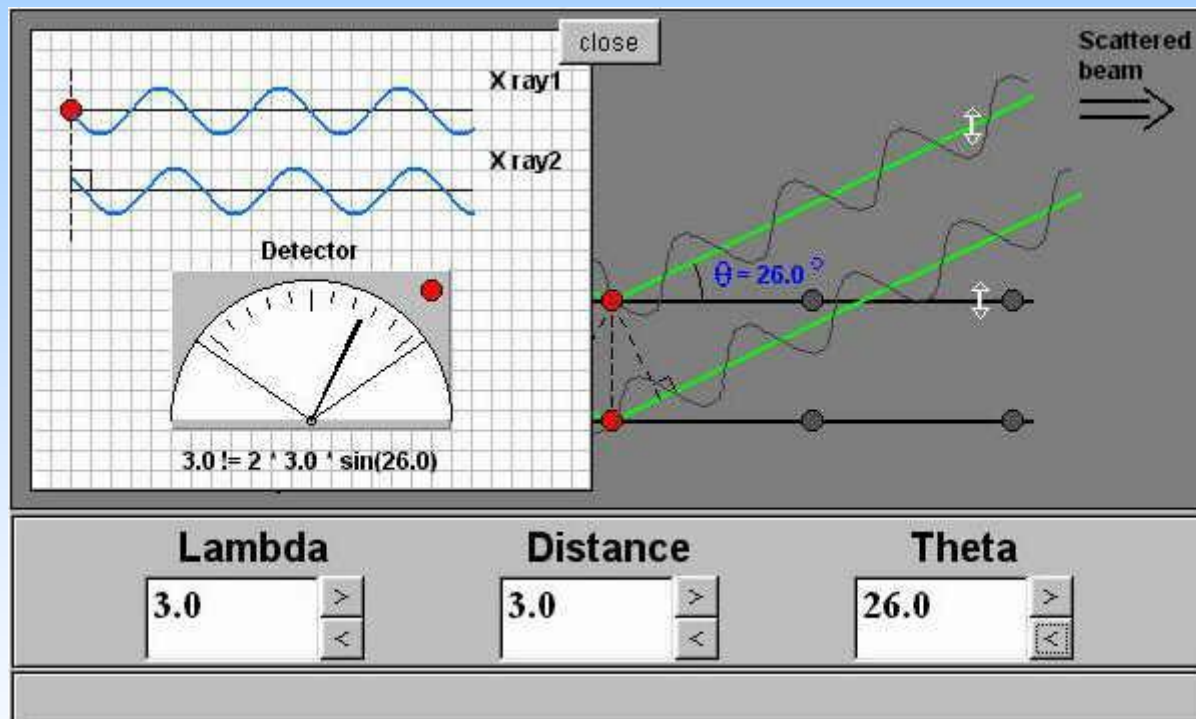
The wave travels exactly one wavelength to  
take the little detour



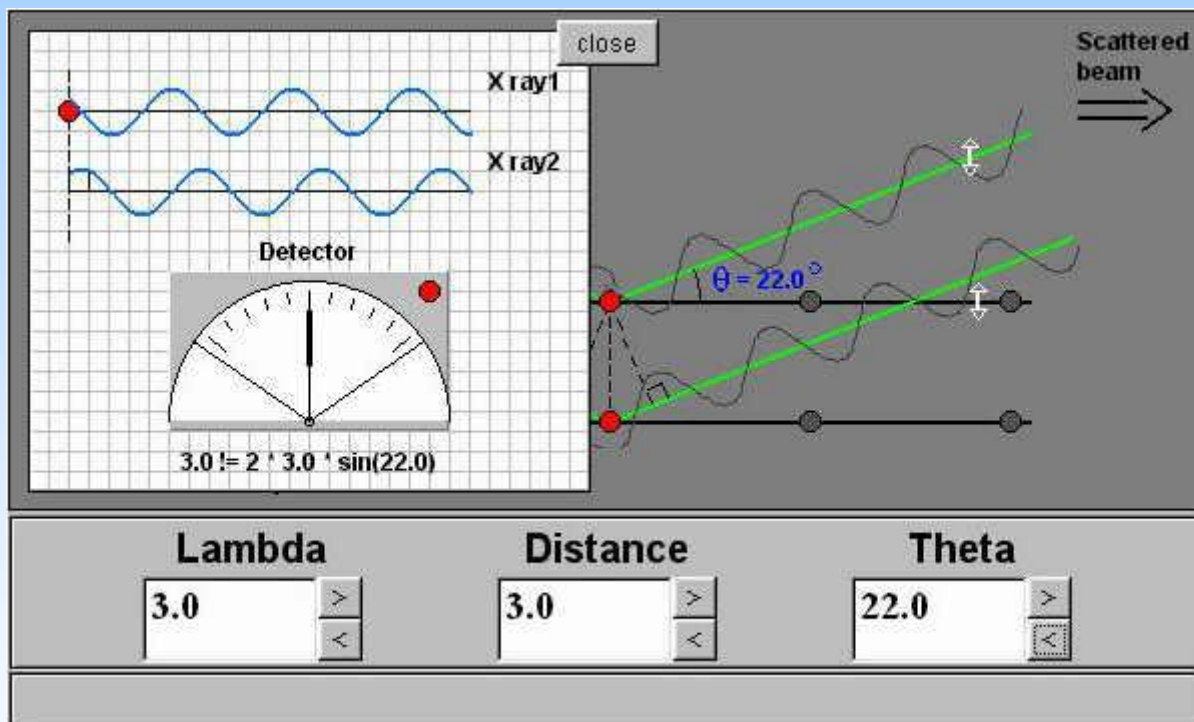
# Watch what happens as we go from maximum to minimum diffracting position and back.

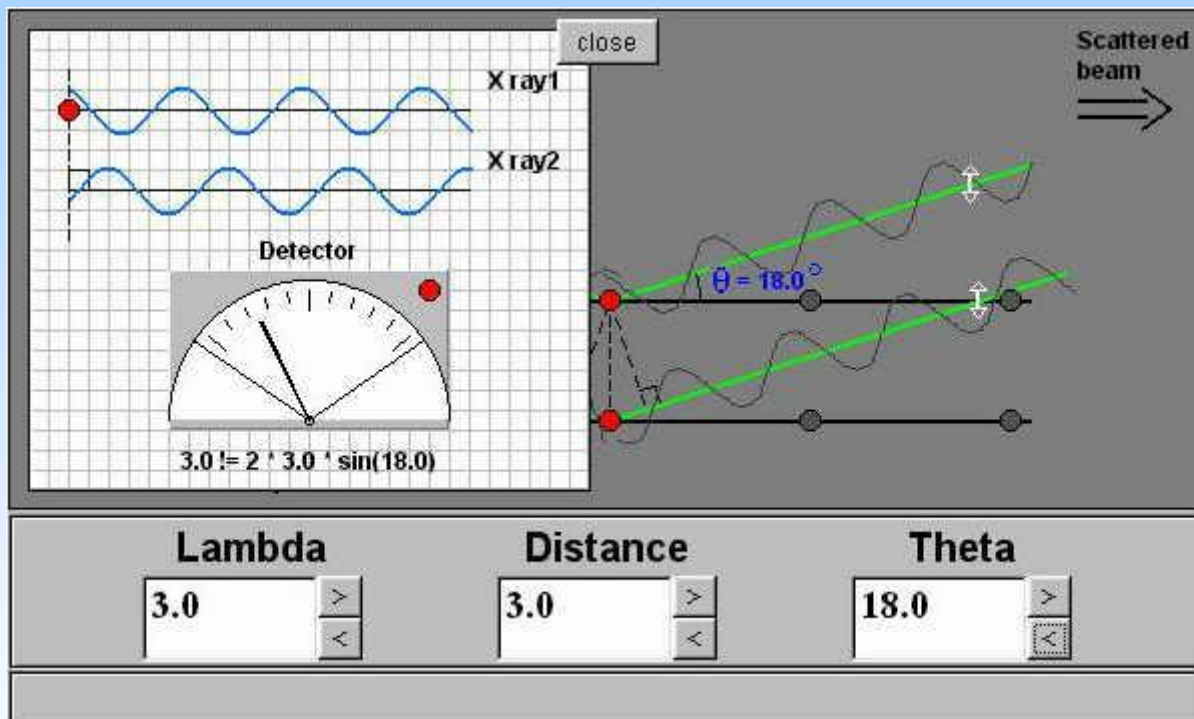


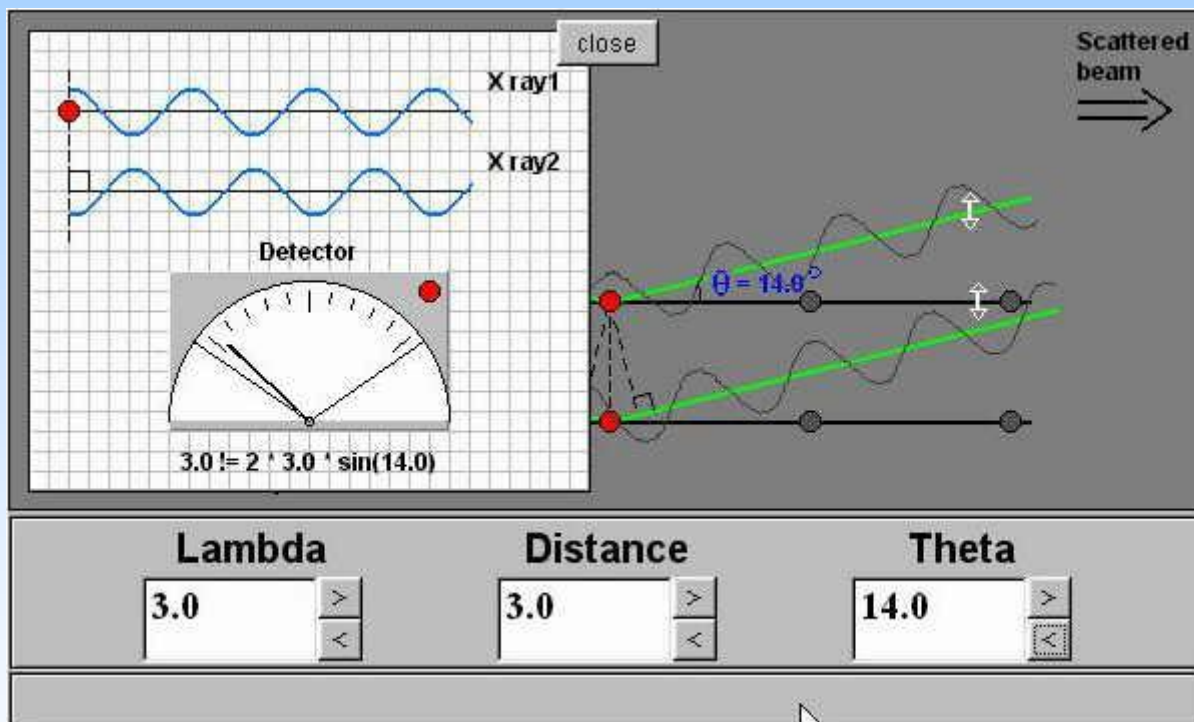
See: [www.journeysunysbedu/ProjectJava/Bragg/home.html](http://www.journeysunysbedu/ProjectJava/Bragg/home.html)

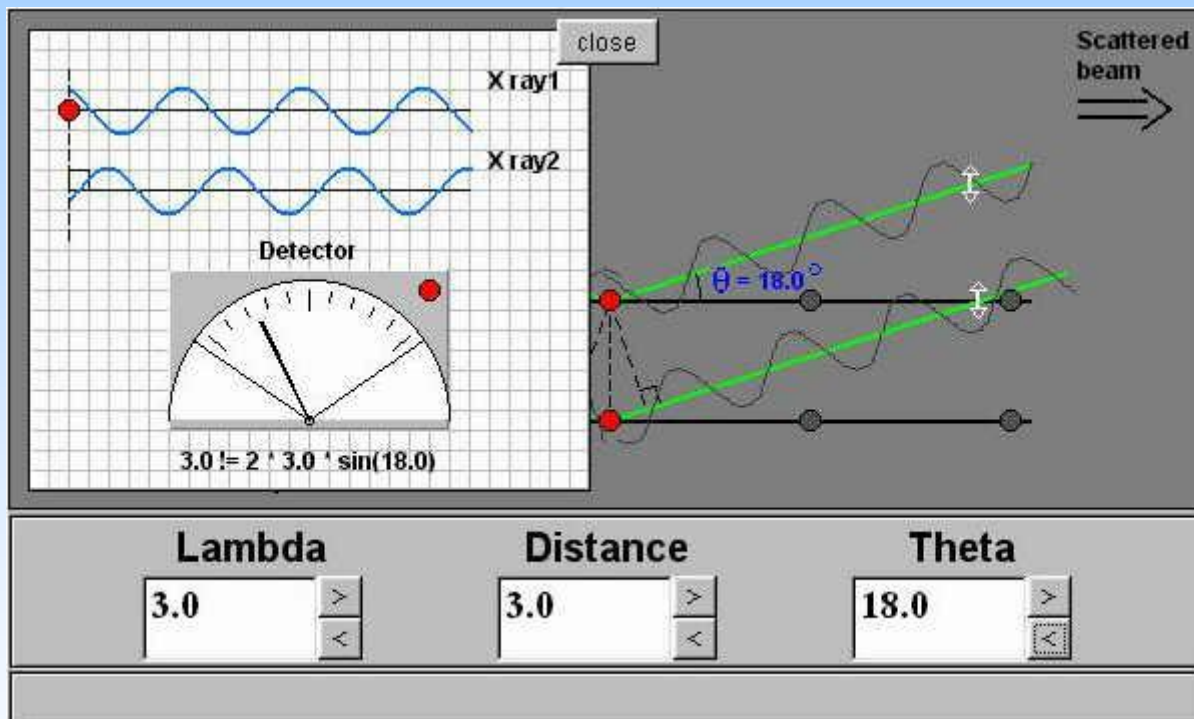


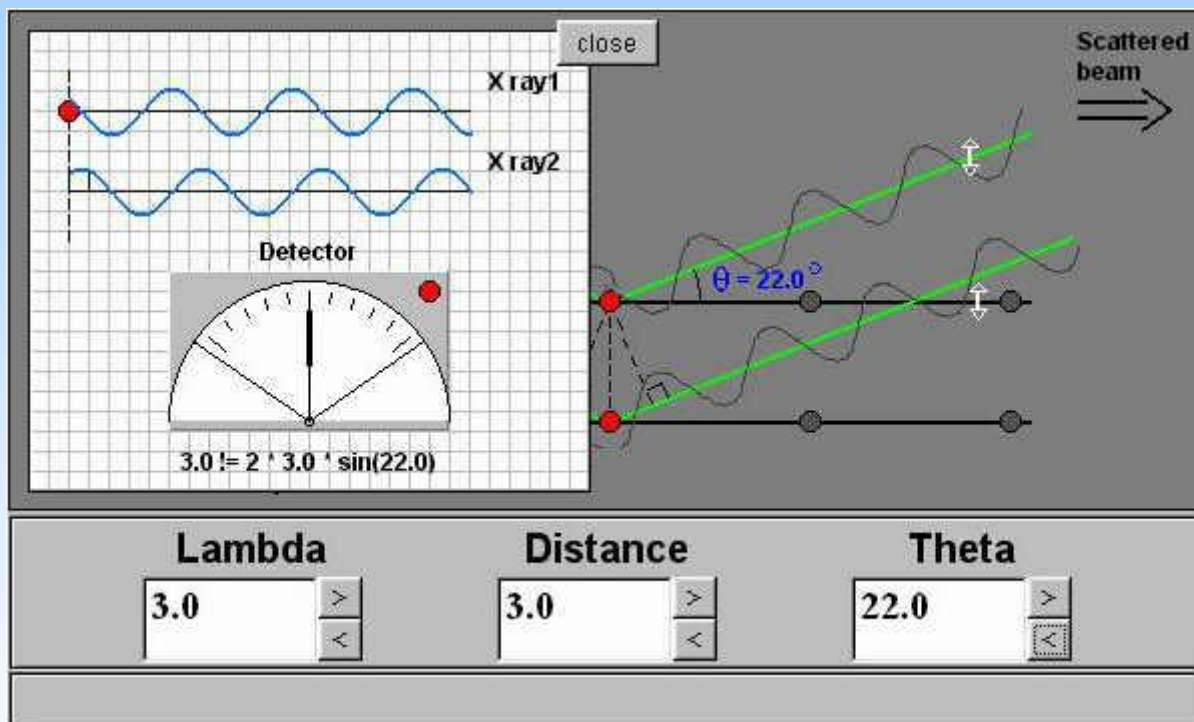


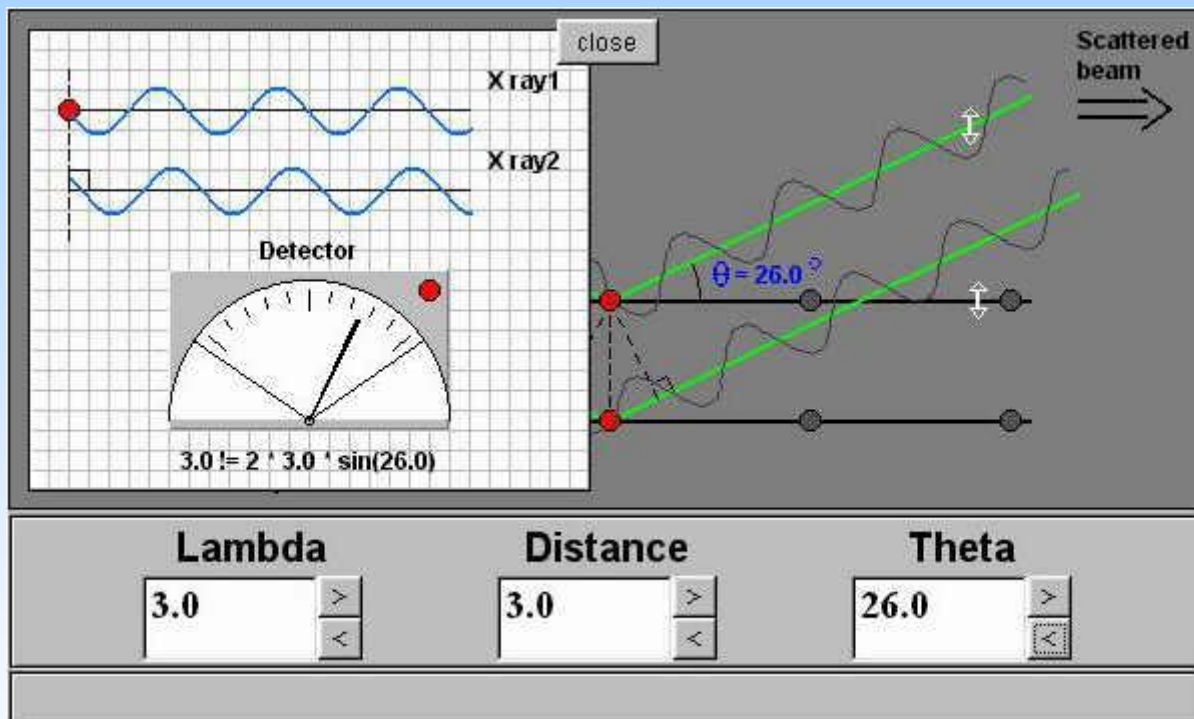


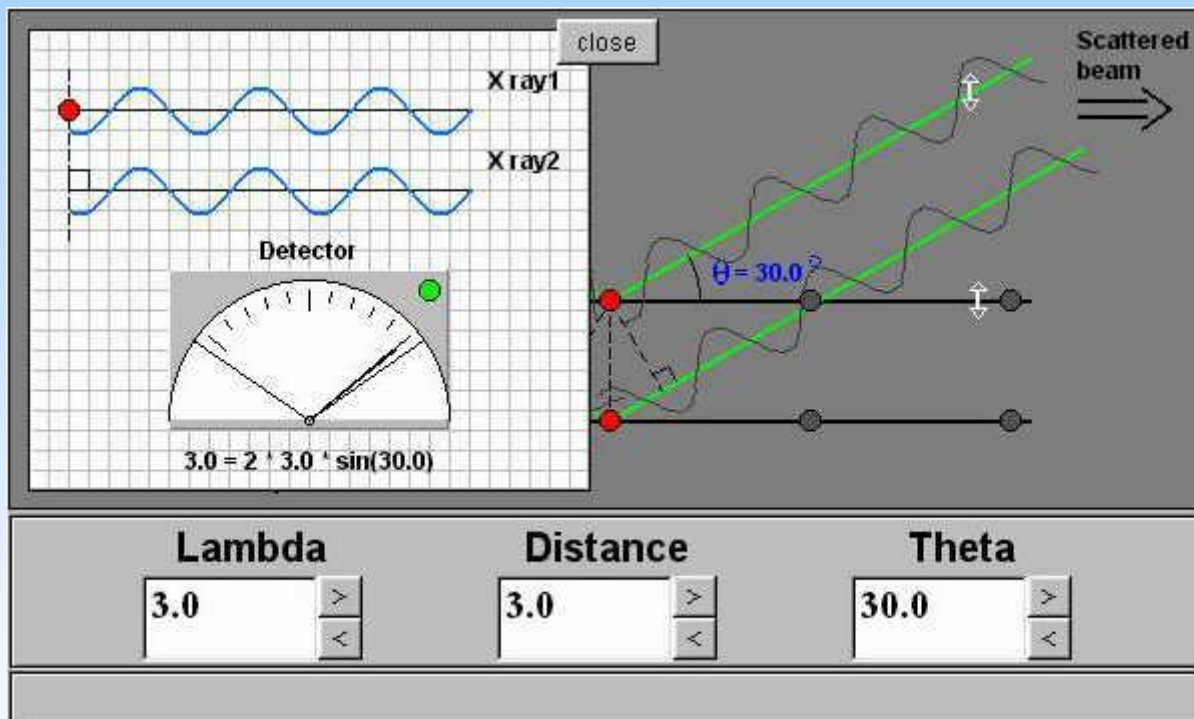












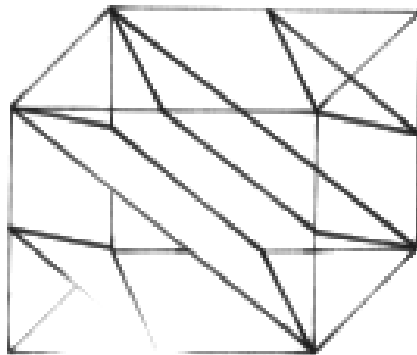
# We have a way to “index” planes in a parallelepiped to give a unique description of them.

*Notice: By the way we define these planes, for every family of planes, at least one of them **passes through the origin** of the unit cell.*

*The unit cell is a parallelepiped. Every corner is an origin of a unit cell, since all are identical.*



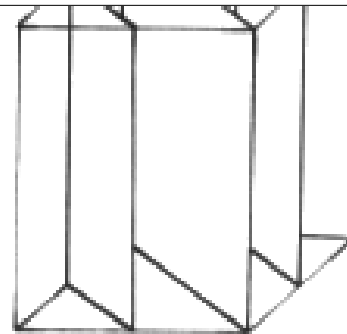
$(3, -1, 2)$  or  $(-3, 1, -2)$



$(2, 1, 2)$  or  $(-2, -1, -2)$



$(2, 2, 0)$  or  $(-2, -2, 0)$



pieces into which each plane cuts the axis of the “unit cell” of the crystal -- the smallest repeating unit that makes up the crystal.



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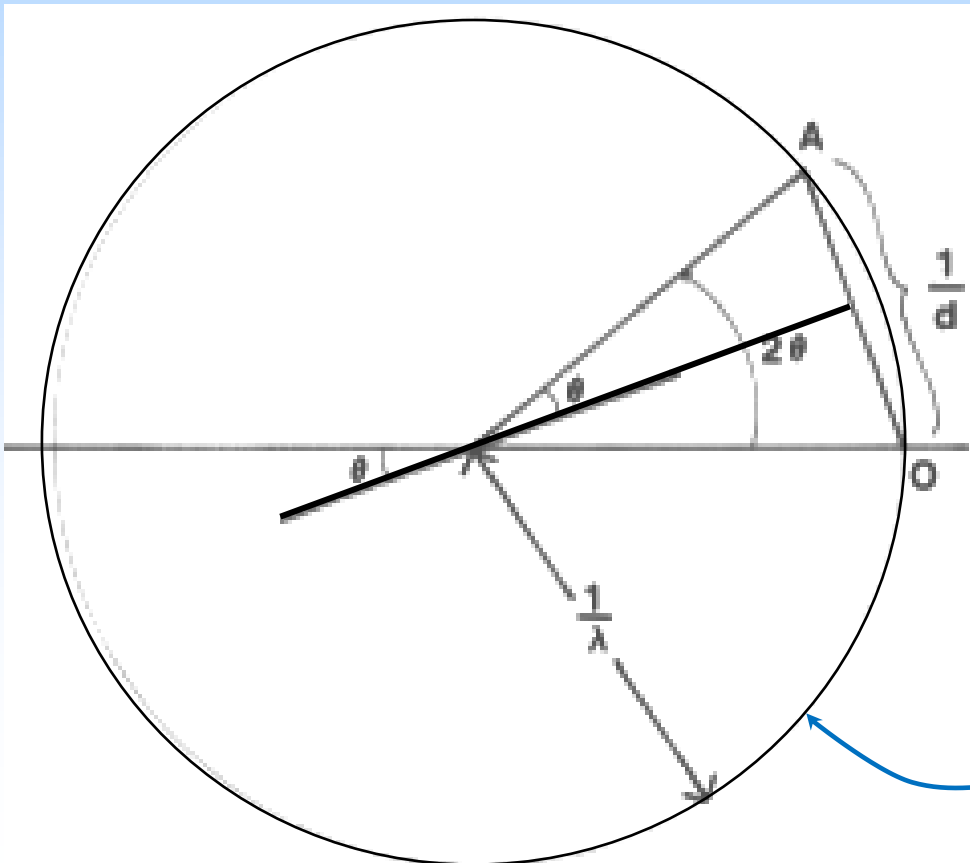
To relate the planes in the crystal lattice to the points in the diffraction pattern, we make Ewald's construction.

We have that  $\sin \theta = (\text{OA}/2)/(1/\lambda) = \lambda \times \text{OA}/2$ , or  $\lambda = 2 \sin \theta / \text{OA}$ .

Compare this to Bragg's Law:  $\lambda = 2d \sin \theta$ .

We take  $1/\text{OA}$  as being equivalent to  $d$ .

Notice the reflection plane, and that OA is perpendicular to it.



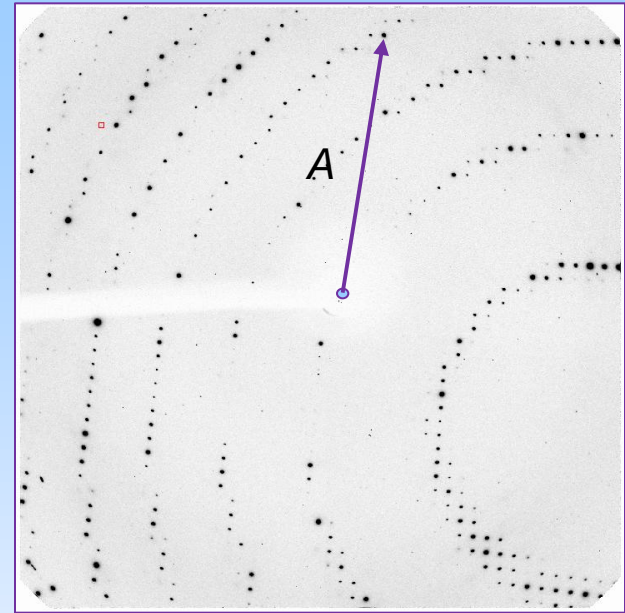
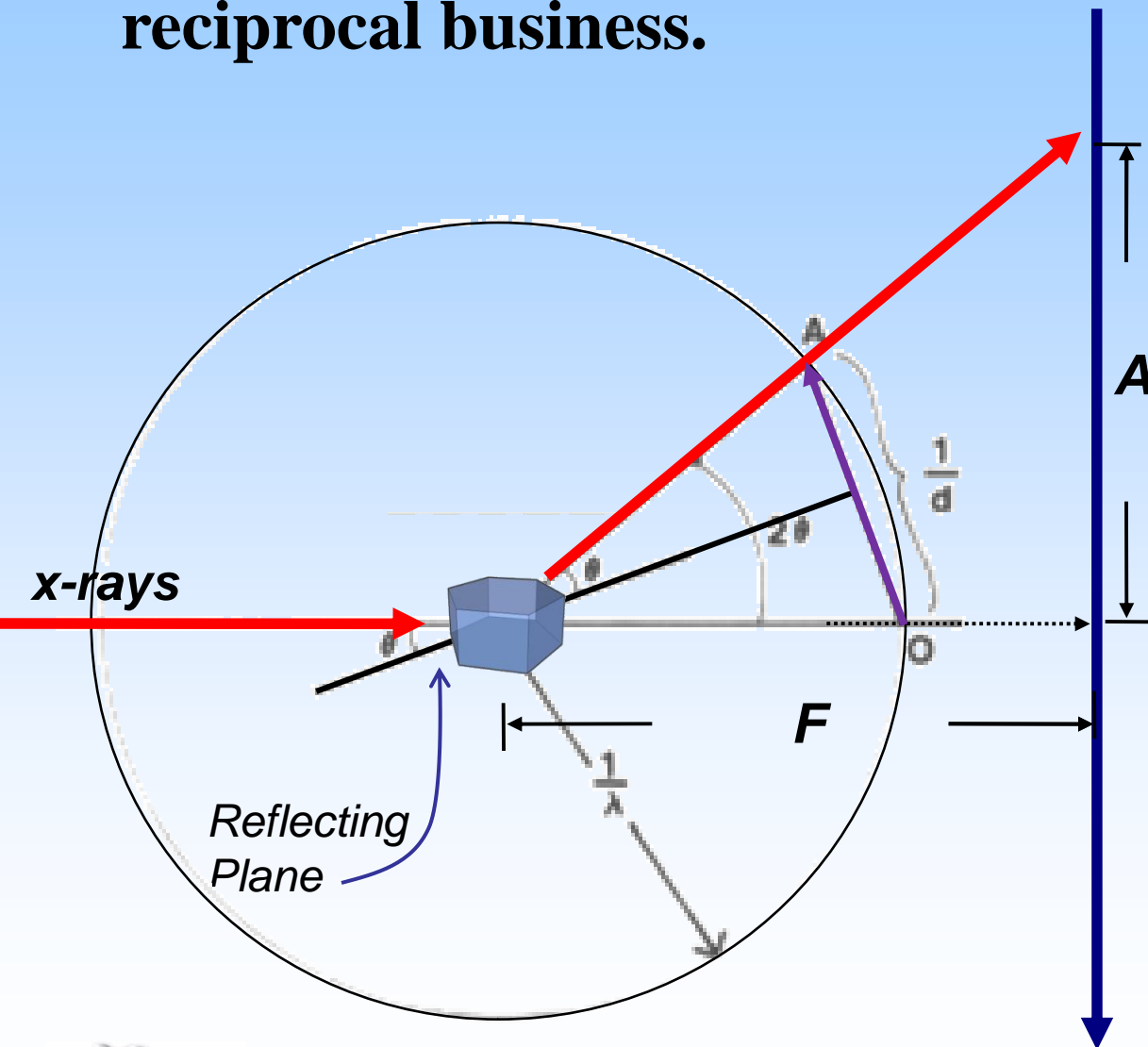
The Ewald construction exists in a space with dimensions of reciprocal distance!

This defines Reciprocal Space!

The vector of length  $1/d$  is perpendicular to the reflecting plane that lies  $\theta$  from the “rays.”

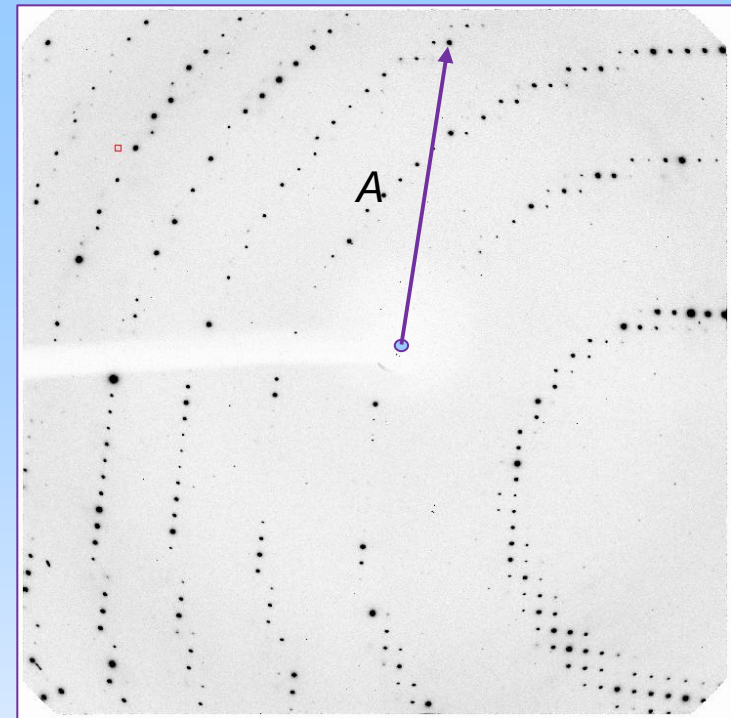
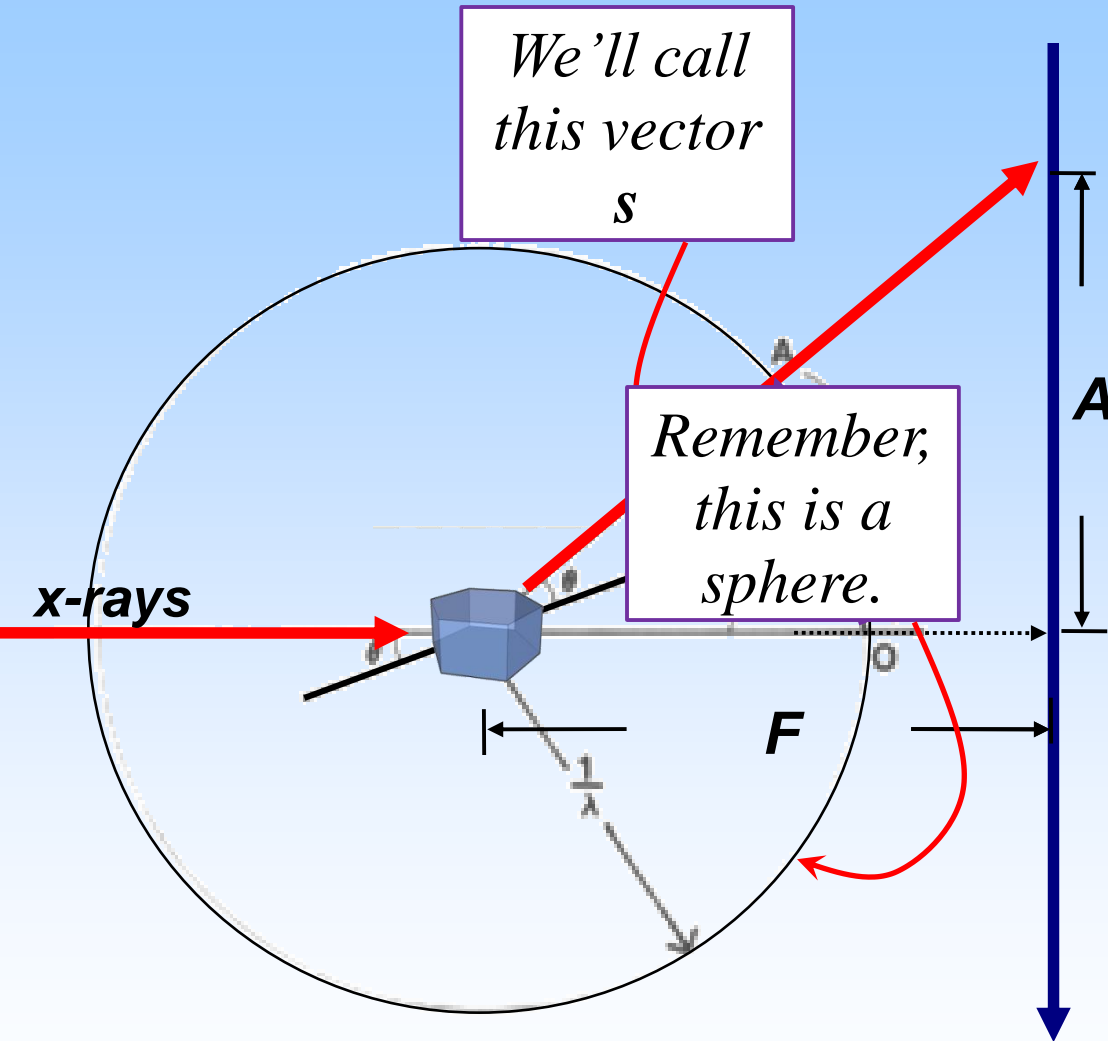
*The Ewald Sphere*

First, let's understand what's happening in the real experiment, then we'll try to understand the reciprocal business.



Bragg's Law is obeyed: diffraction occurs when a vector of length  $1/d_{hkl}$ , which is perpendicular to the lattice planes (hkl), *touches the Ewald sphere* of radius  $1/\lambda$ .

# A little trigonometry:



$$A / F = \tan(2\theta)$$

$$\lambda = 2d \sin(\theta)$$

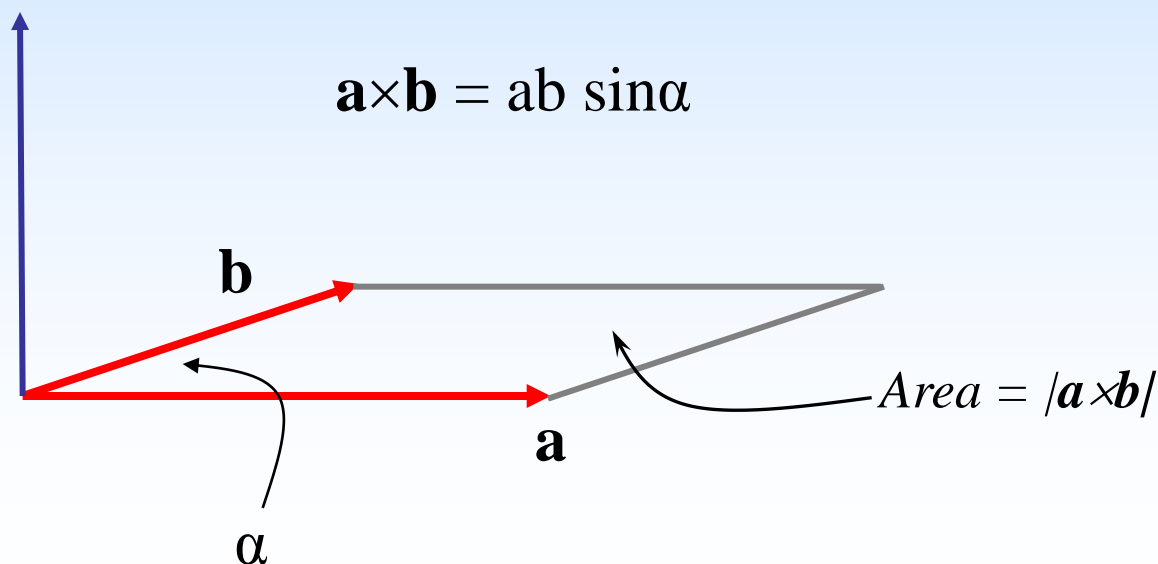
We can get the  
d-spacing for  
the reflection.

How can we define this vector that is perpendicular to the Bragg plane, and has a length that is the reciprocal of the distance between the planes?

We'll define the edges of a unit cell with three vectors.

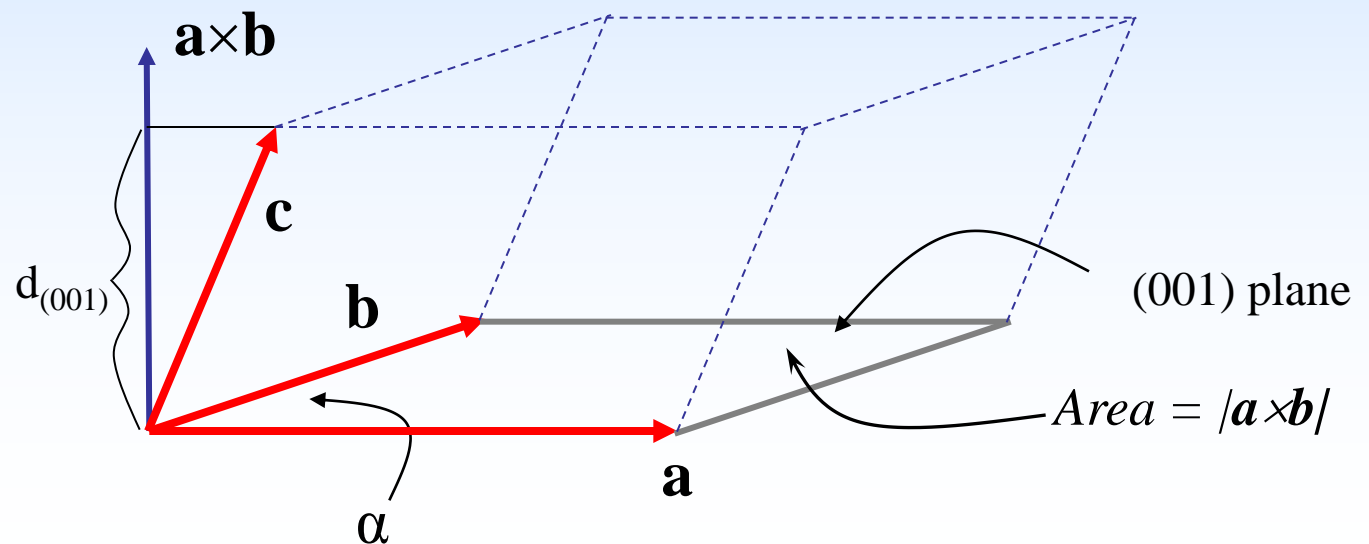
Start with **a** and **b**. We know that the cross product of two vectors lies **perpendicular** to the plane of the two vectors.

This is the direction we want. The **amplitude** of **a** **b** is the **area** of the parallelogram defined by the vectors:



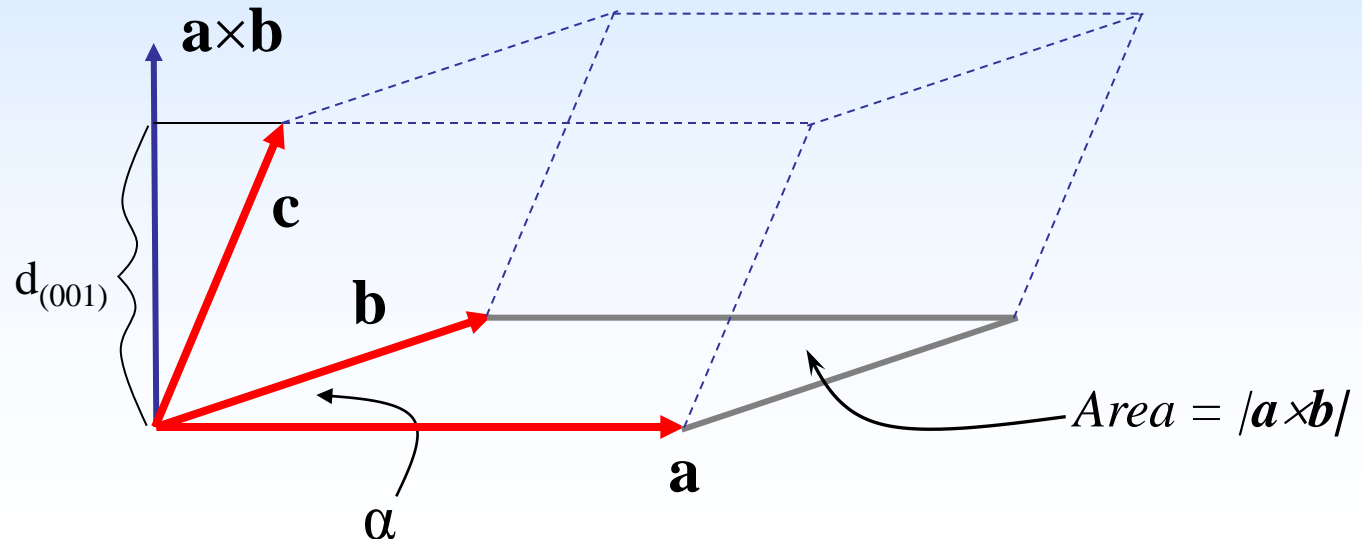
We've described the base of the unit cell of the crystal by two vectors **a** and **b**, and **the area** of the base is the **amplitude** of the cross product of **a** and **b**.

Now we'll include the third vector **c**. We want to know the spacing  $d_{(001)}$ , between the **ab** planes [the **(001)** lattice planes]. It must be the projection of **c** on the vector  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$ . We know that we get the **product of the projection of one vector on another** with the vector dot product:  $(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c}$ .



So  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c}$ , known as a **vector triple product**, is the area of  $\mathbf{a}\mathbf{b}$  times  $d_{(001)}$ , the spacing between the planes. That, of course is the **Volume** of the unit cell. If we divide this quantity into the area, we get **the reciprocal of the spacing**, which is what we want!!

$$1/d_{(001)} = \text{Area}/\text{Volume} = |s_{001}| = |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| / |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c}| = c^*$$



So the *reciprocal* lattice vector that represents the (001) planes is

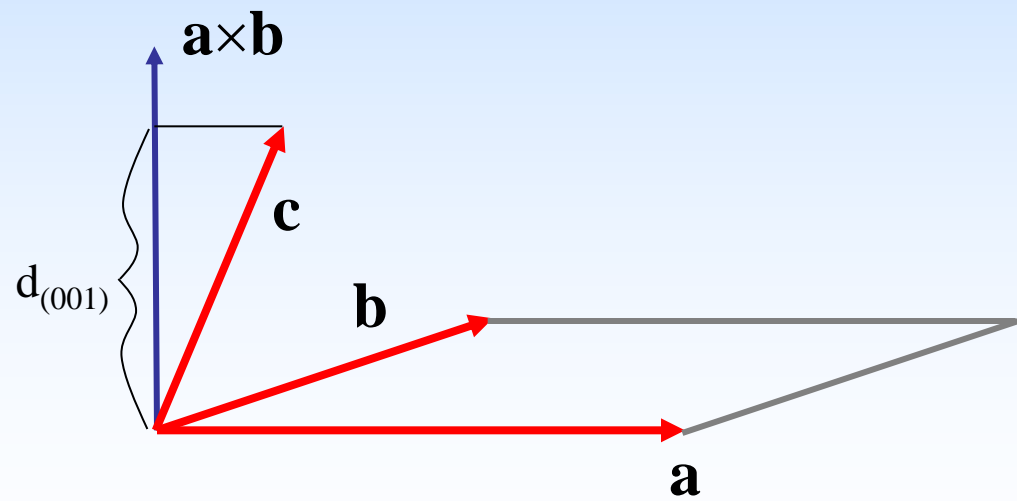
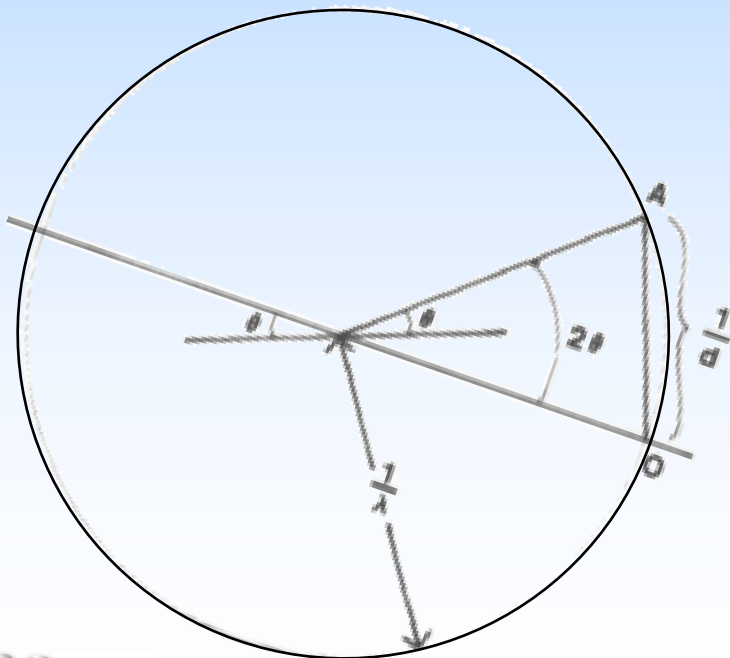
$$\mathbf{s}_{001} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} / \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{s}_{001}| = 1/d_{(001)}$$

We define each *axial* reciprocal lattice vector as a *reciprocal unit cell axis*:

$$\mathbf{s}_{100} = \mathbf{a}^*$$

$$\mathbf{s}_{010} = \mathbf{b}^*$$

$$\mathbf{s}_{001} = \mathbf{c}^*$$





**Let's be sure this is perfectly clear:**

We define each **principal** reciprocal lattice vector  
as a **reciprocal unit cell axis**:

$$\mathbf{a}^* = \mathbf{s}_{100} = \mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c} / \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{s}_{100}| = 1/d_{(100)}$$

$$\mathbf{b}^* = \mathbf{s}_{010} = \mathbf{c} \times \mathbf{a} / \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{s}_{010}| = 1/d_{(010)}$$

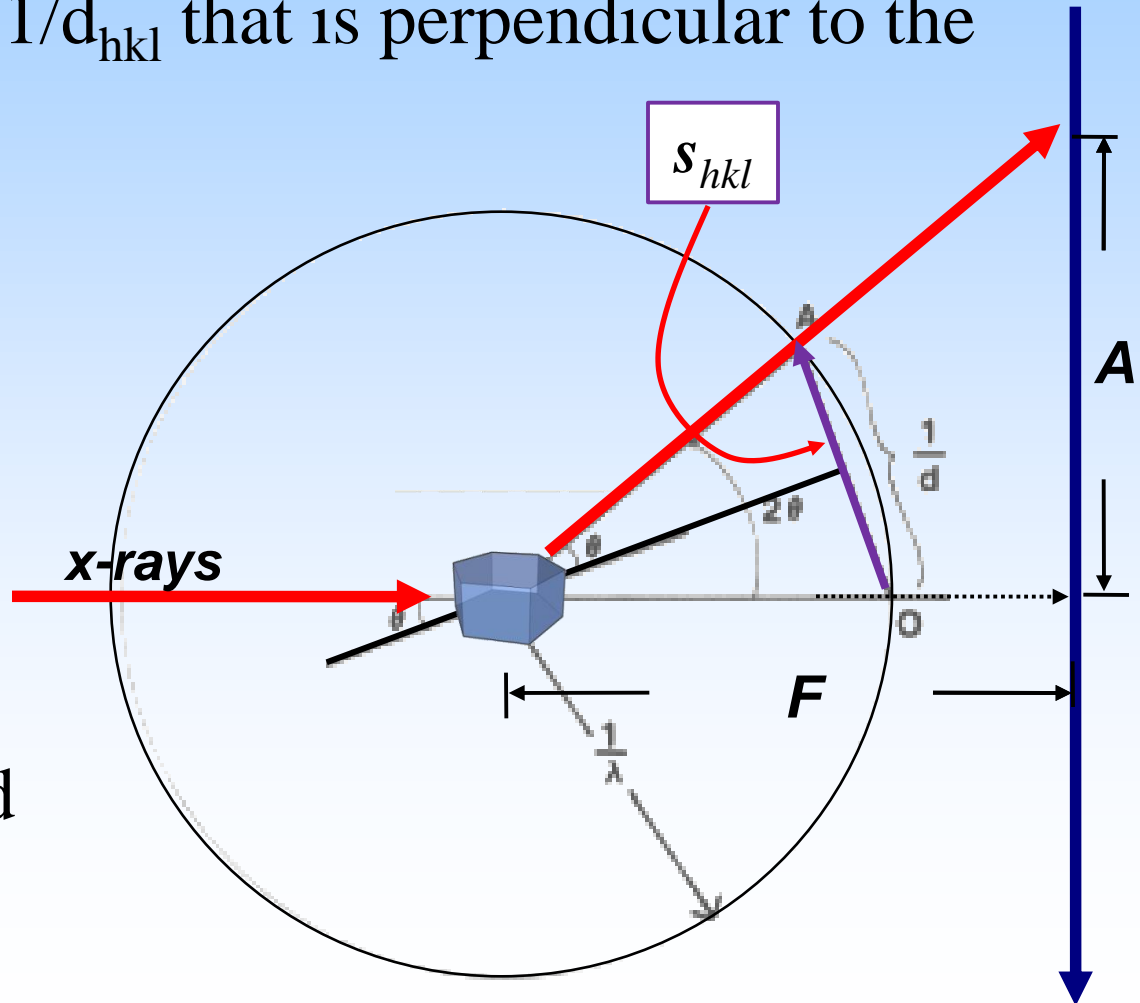
$$\mathbf{c}^* = \mathbf{s}_{001} = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} / \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} \quad \text{and} \quad |\mathbf{s}_{001}| = 1/d_{(001)}$$

These allow us to define **reciprocal-lattice vectors**:

$$\mathbf{s}_{hkl} = h\mathbf{a}^* + k\mathbf{b}^* + l\mathbf{c}^*$$

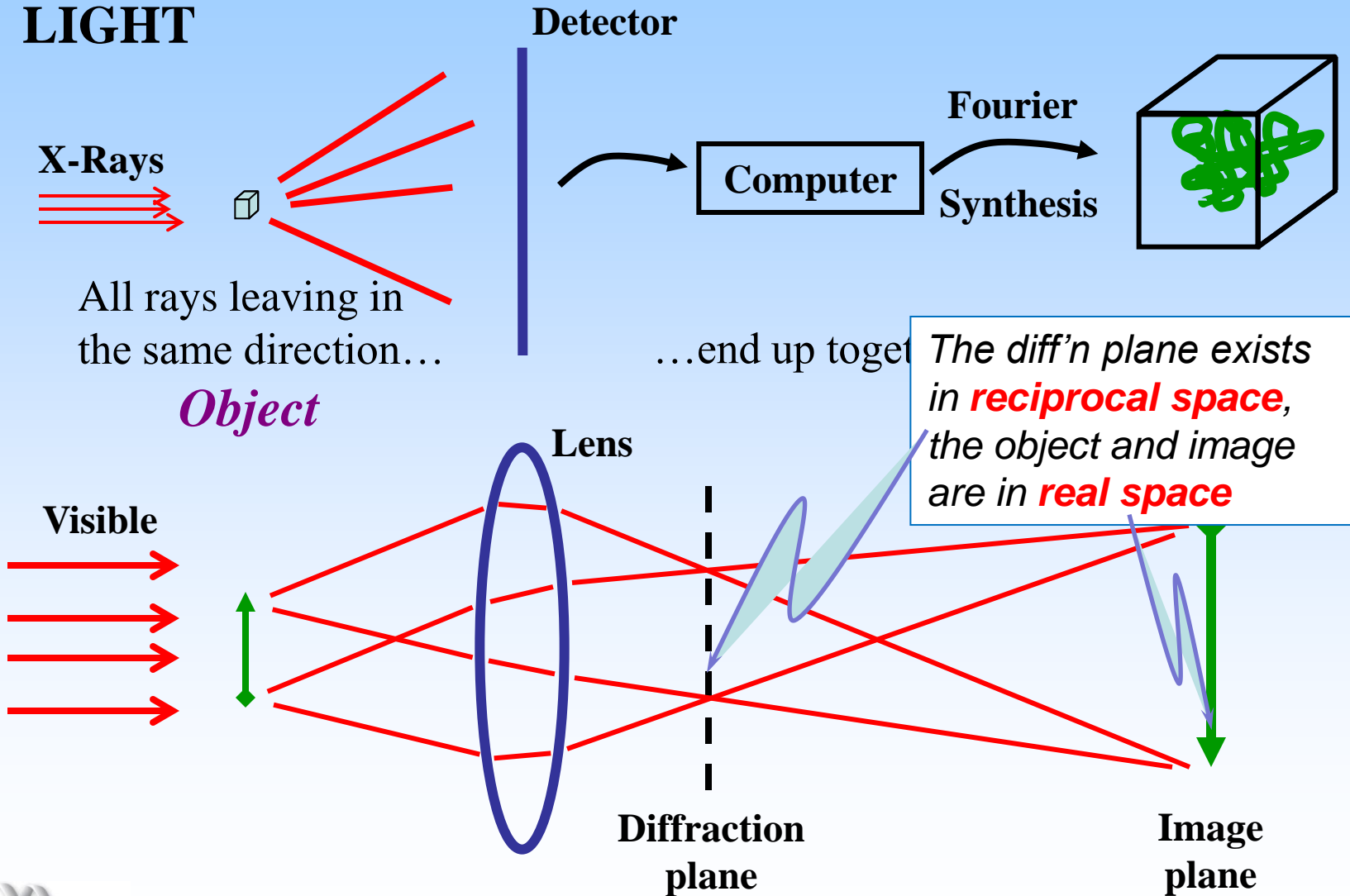
Bragg's Law is obeyed – diffraction will occur – when the  $\mathbf{s}$  vector of length  $1/d_{hkl}$  that is perpendicular to the lattice plane (hkl) **touches the Ewald sphere** of radius  $1/\lambda$ .

So we need not think about **Bragg** planes again, we think only of **reciprocal-lattice vectors** and the Ewald Sphere of reflection.

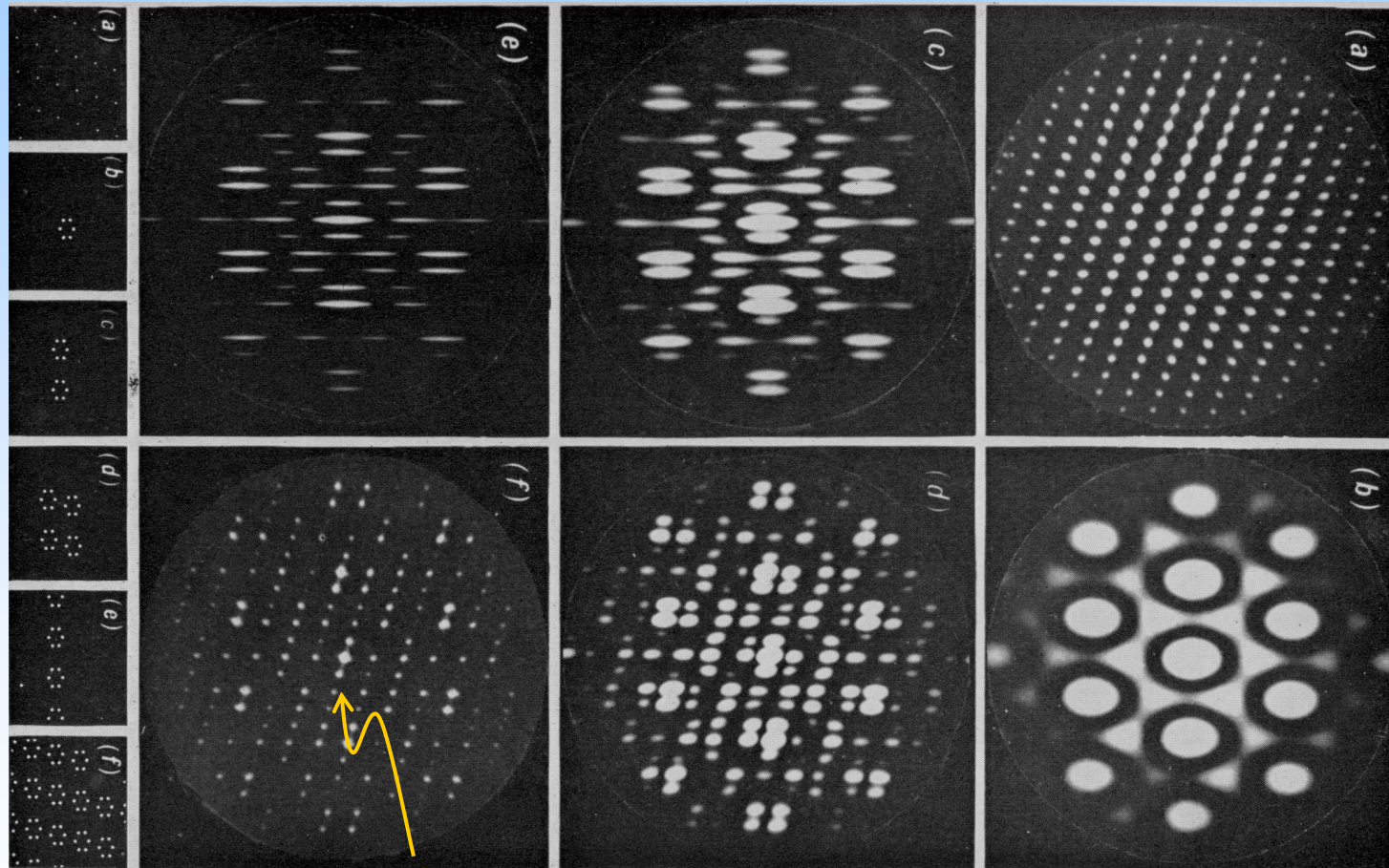


# Remember our comparison between diffraction and lens imaging...

## LIGHT



Now we use the Taylor and Lipson figures to see how the **contents** of the crystal relate to the diffraction pattern.



crystal

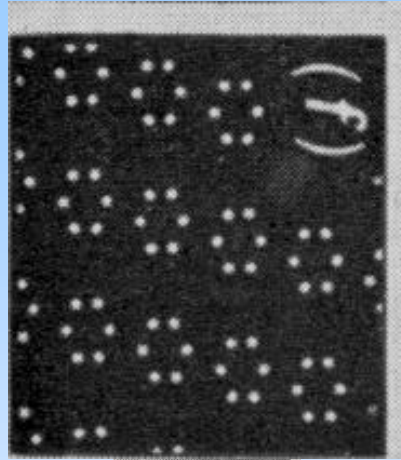
Coordinates of points  
are "indices."

diffraction

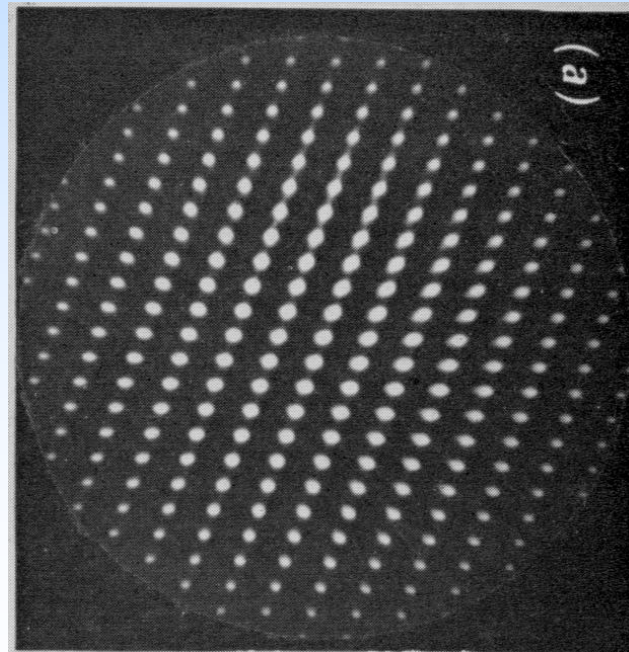
Notice (1)  
The sym-  
metry, and  
(2) how the  
continuous  
diffraction  
pattern of  
one molec-  
ule (b) is  
"sampled"  
by the lat-  
tice of dif-  
fraction  
points.

# Do we understand the real/reciprocal lattice idea?

**Crystal –  
Real Lattice**



**Diffraction –  
Reciprocal  
Lattice**



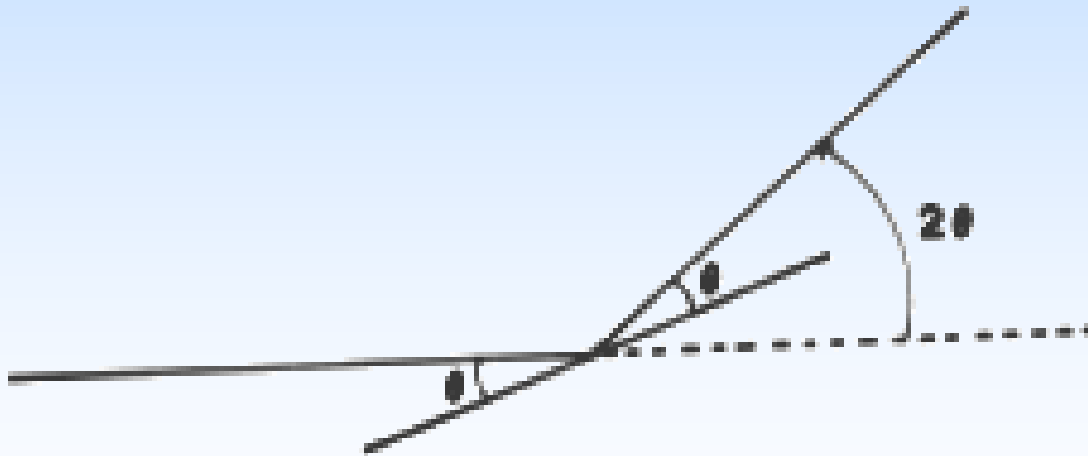
Confirm that the vectors perpendicular to the **Crystal-Lattice planes** are parallel to the **Reciprocal Lattice vectors**, and that the reciprocal distances make sense.



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**Remember the geometry** -- if the Bragg planes lie angle  $\theta$  from the incident x-ray beam, the **total diffraction angle will be  $2\theta$** . We can make an instrument to exploit that geometry.

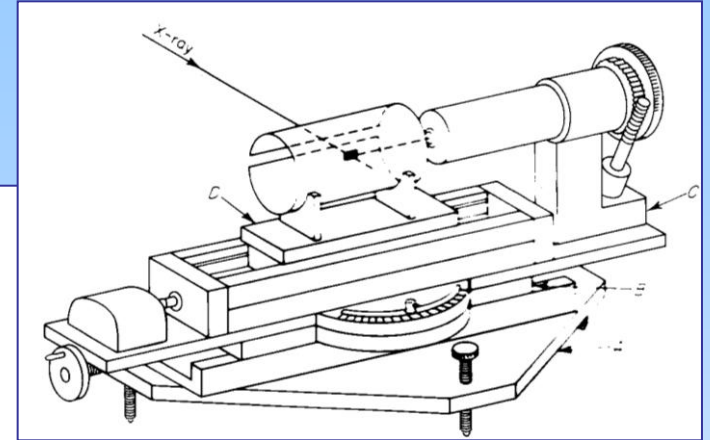
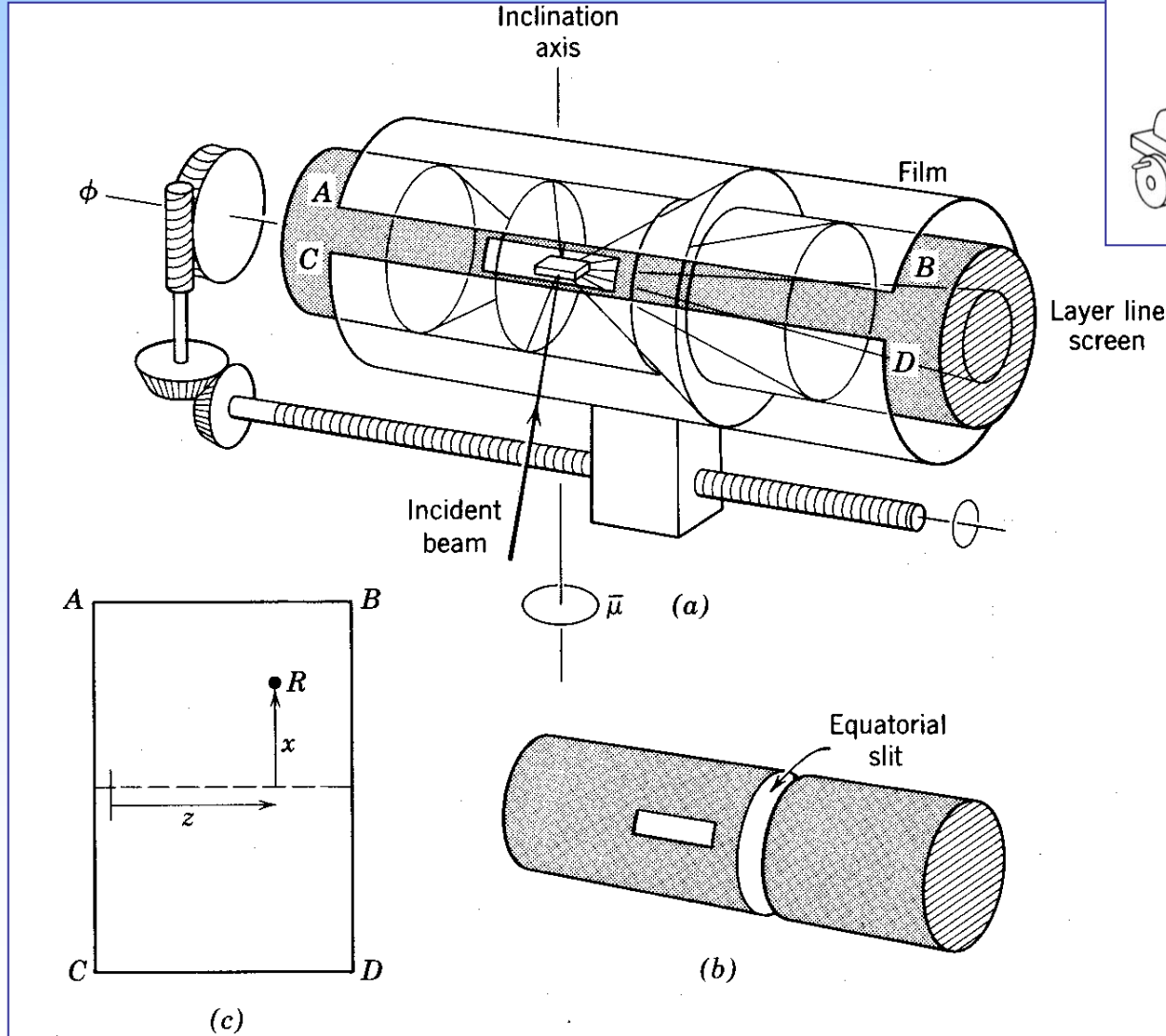


**And Remember the objective** – We must view the molecule from every direction to recreate a three-dimensional image:

- We must obtain diffraction from *all* of the **Bragg** planes;
- We must sample *all* of the **reciprocal lattice**.



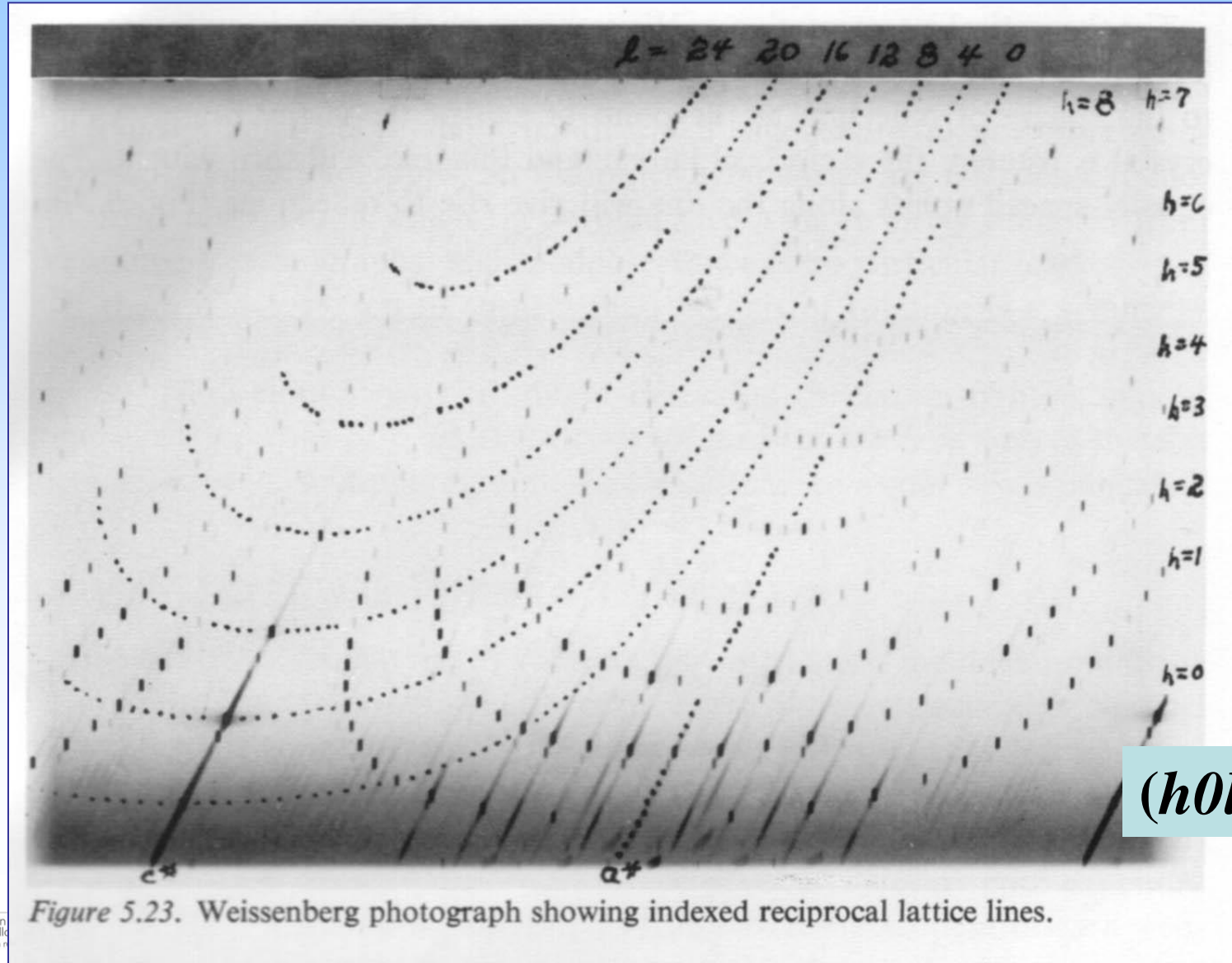
# My first data were collected with a Weissenberg Camera *47-yrs ago.*



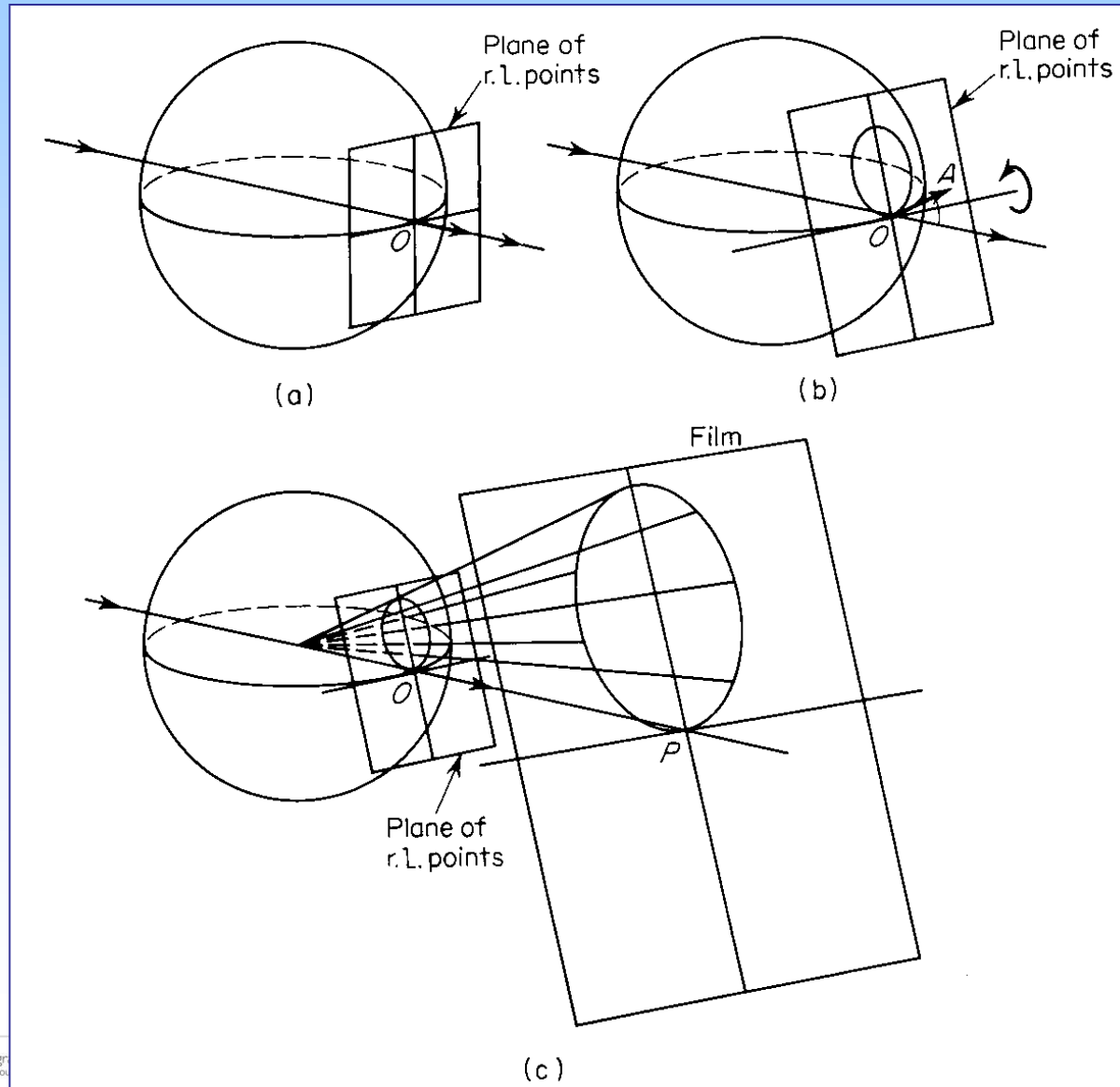
A complicated machine to simplify our view of reciprocal space.

One rotates the crystal around a **real lattice vector**.

**The Weissenberg photograph gives a wonderfully distorted, but organized, view of reciprocal space.**

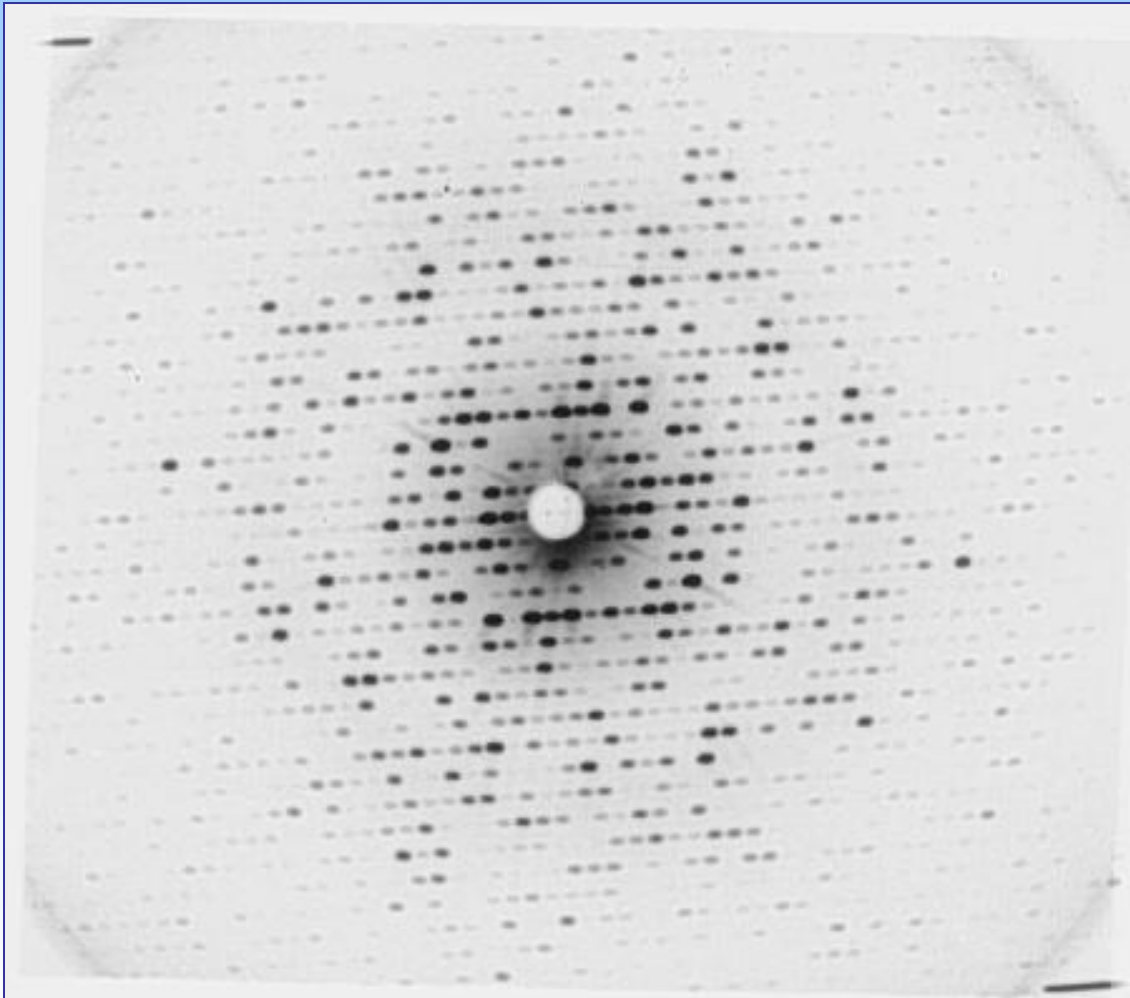


# Martin Buerger devised a camera geometry that preserved the shape of reciprocal space.



It's an even more complicated machine to simplify our view of reciprocal space further.

Mount x-tals with a **real** crystal axis **parallel to the beam**.

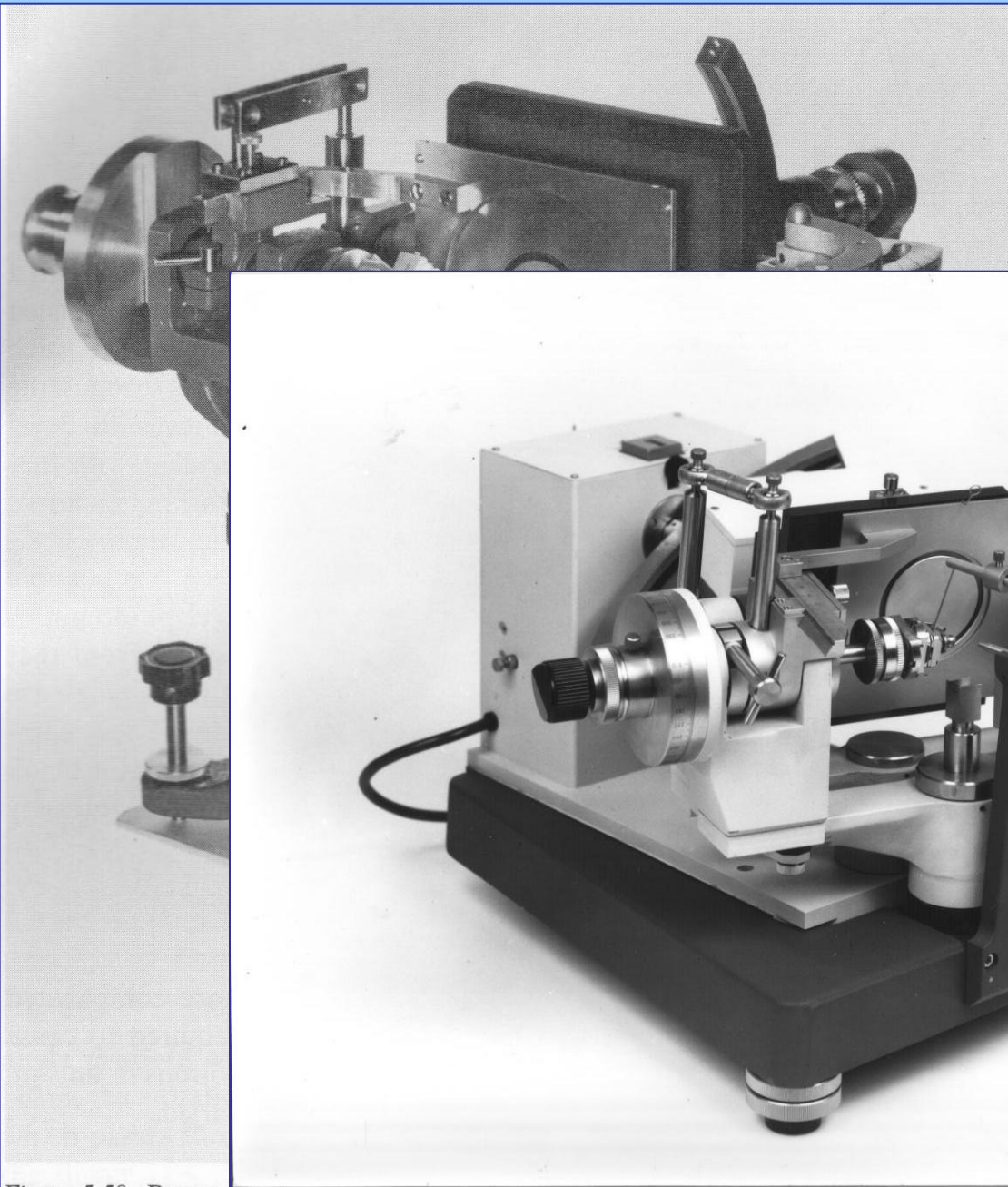


The **precession photograph** allows us to view the diffraction pattern of the crystal lattice as an **undistorted** pattern of spots.

*An antique precession photo of Chymotrypsin, courtesy of David M Blow*







Notice the  
counterweights, the

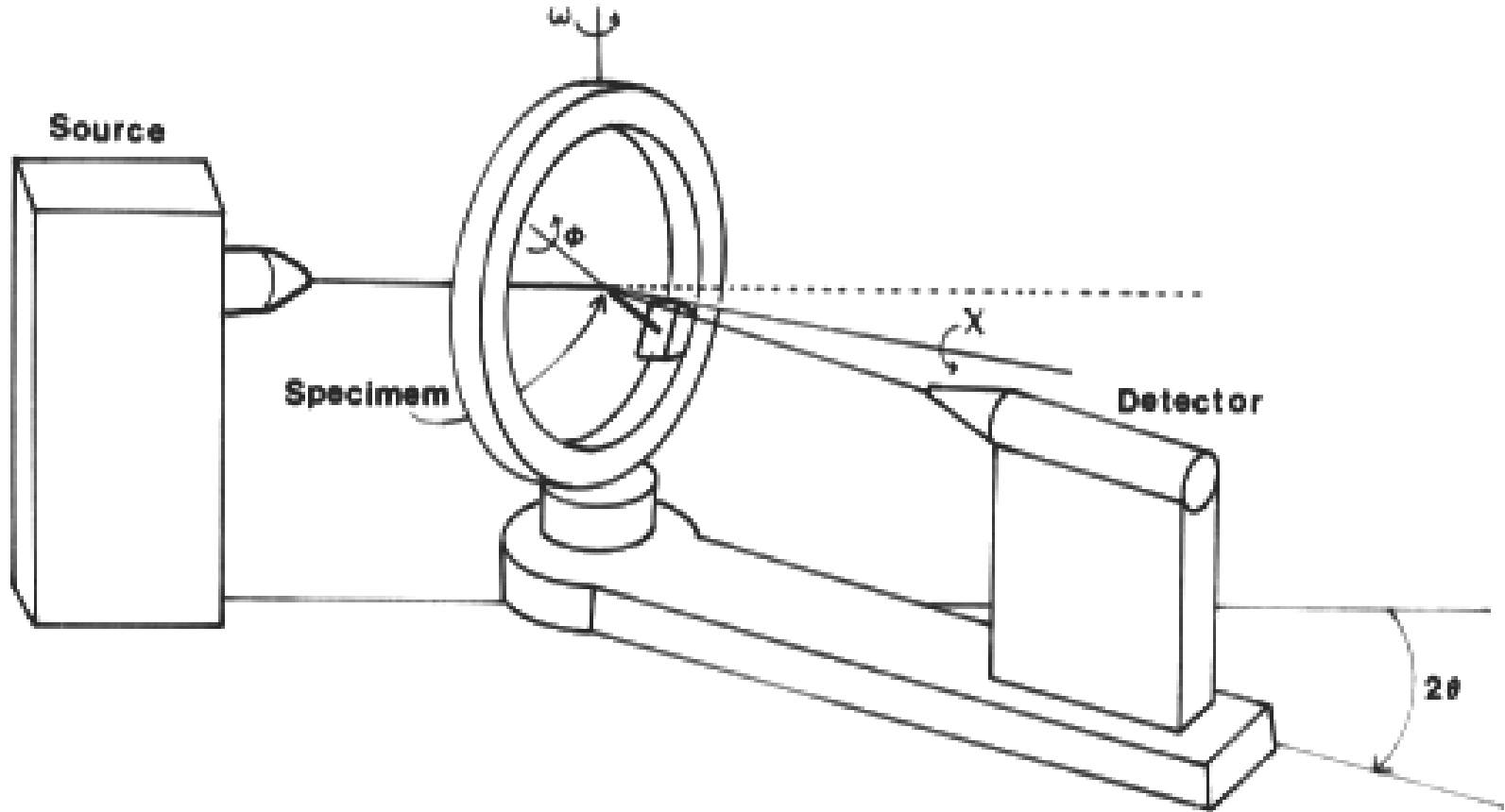
and the  
not only  
lattice

similar  
ed **51-**  
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Figure 5.59. Precession camera. (Co

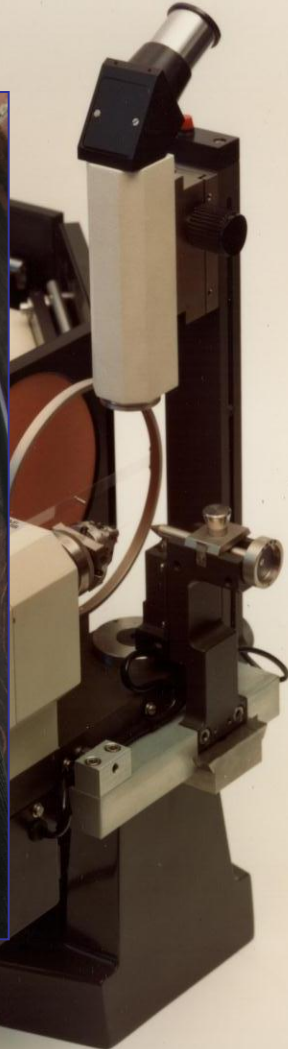
*Bram Schierbeek, Bruker-AXS*

**The automated Eulerian cradle decreased the labor, but still one measured reflections one at a time. (*45yrs ago*)**



**Uli Arndt and Alan Wonacott invented the automated rotation camera. Still x-ray film, but very much more efficient.**

*(~36yrs ago)*



*Bram Schierbeek, Bruker-AXS*



# Another Uli Arndt invention was a video-based detector

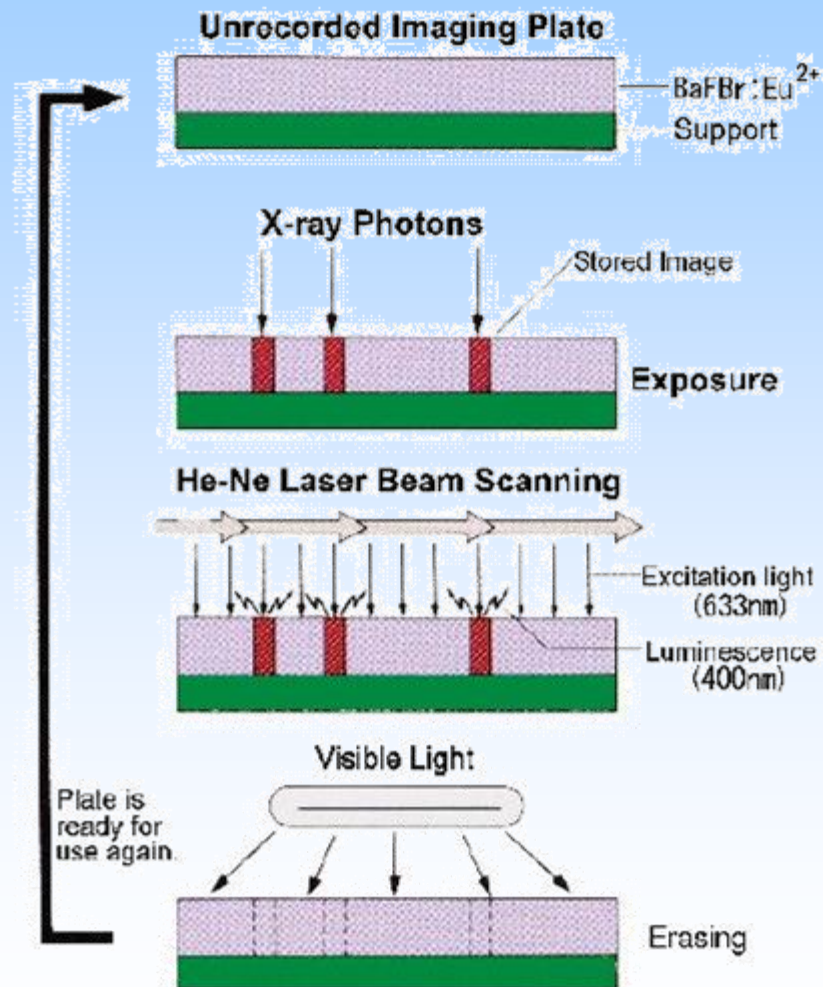
The screen was small, but it was very sensitive and could read out continuously – the x-tal just kept rotating as images came out.


*(23yrs ago)*



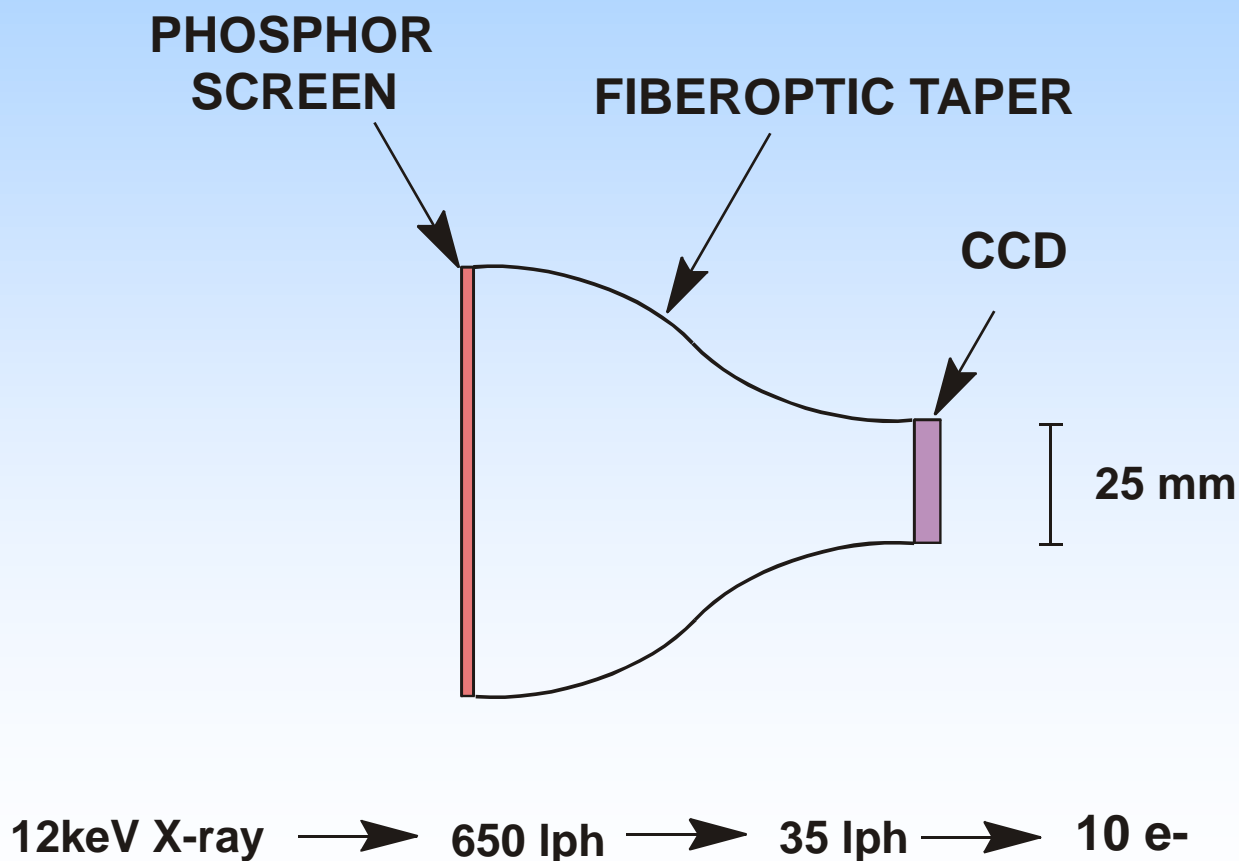
*Bram Schierbeek*  
*Bruker-AXS*

An important advance was photoluminescent imaging plates. MAR research, followed by Rigaku, made a successful camera that worked like electronic x-ray film, but much better. (21 yrs)



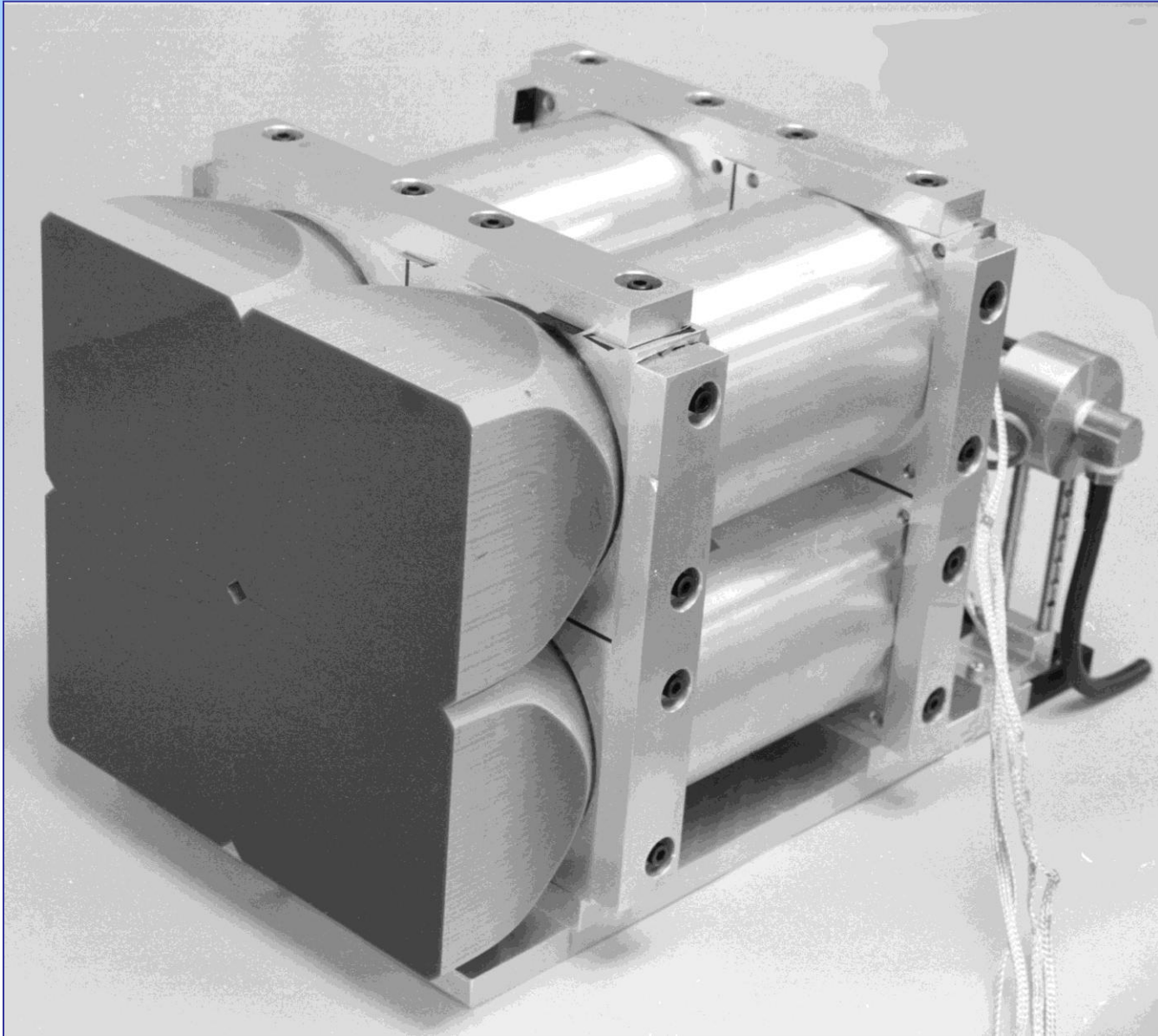
 **Figure 1.** The process of recording an x-ray radiation image on an imaging plate, and subsequent read-out and erasure.

**The advance that made possible our modern detectors was made by Ed Westbrook, Sol Gruner, and others: bonding of a charge-coupled device to a fiber-optic taper with an x-ray sensitive phosphor in front. *(17yrs ago)***



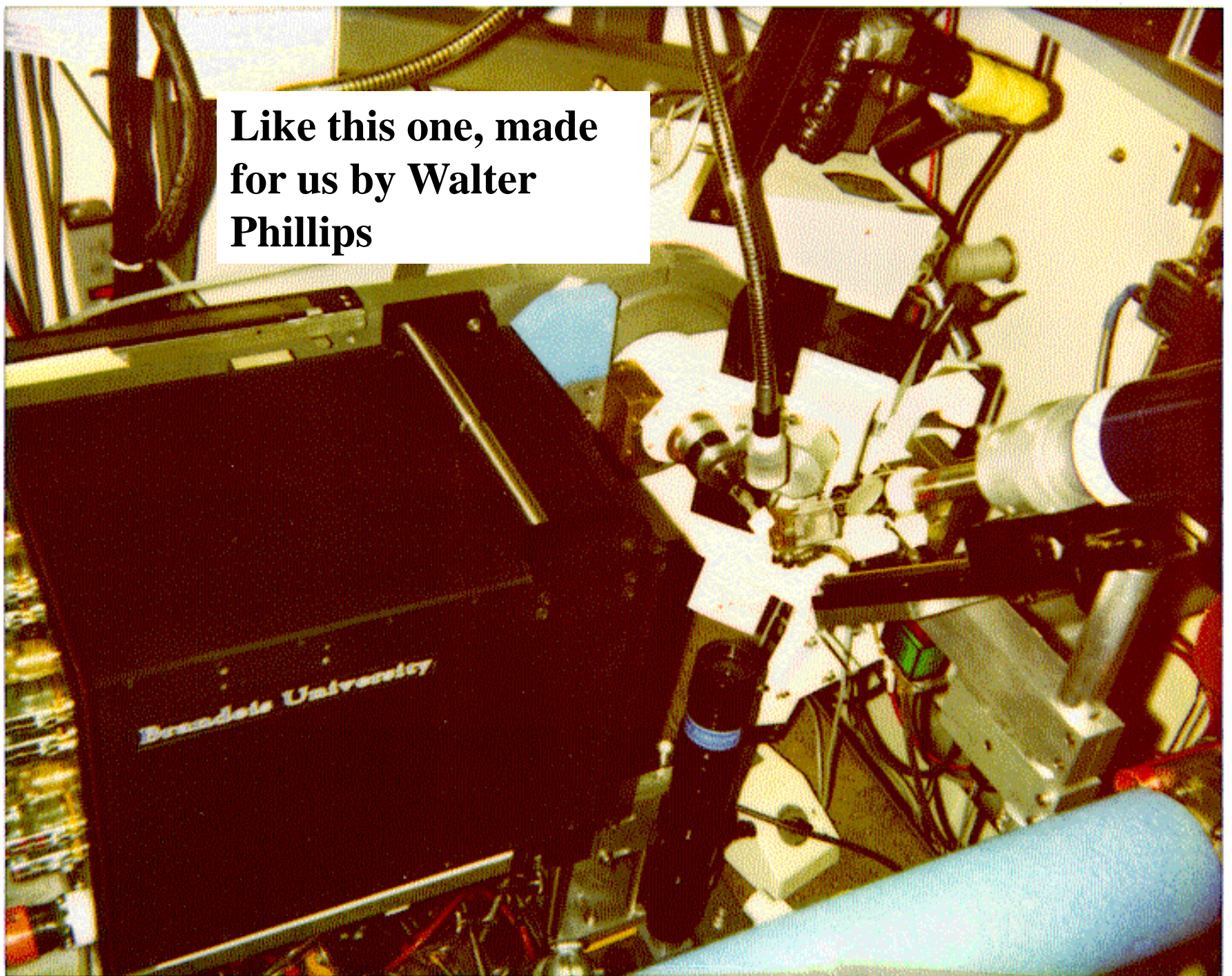


**Several of these can be bonded together to make a large detector... *(13yrs ago)***





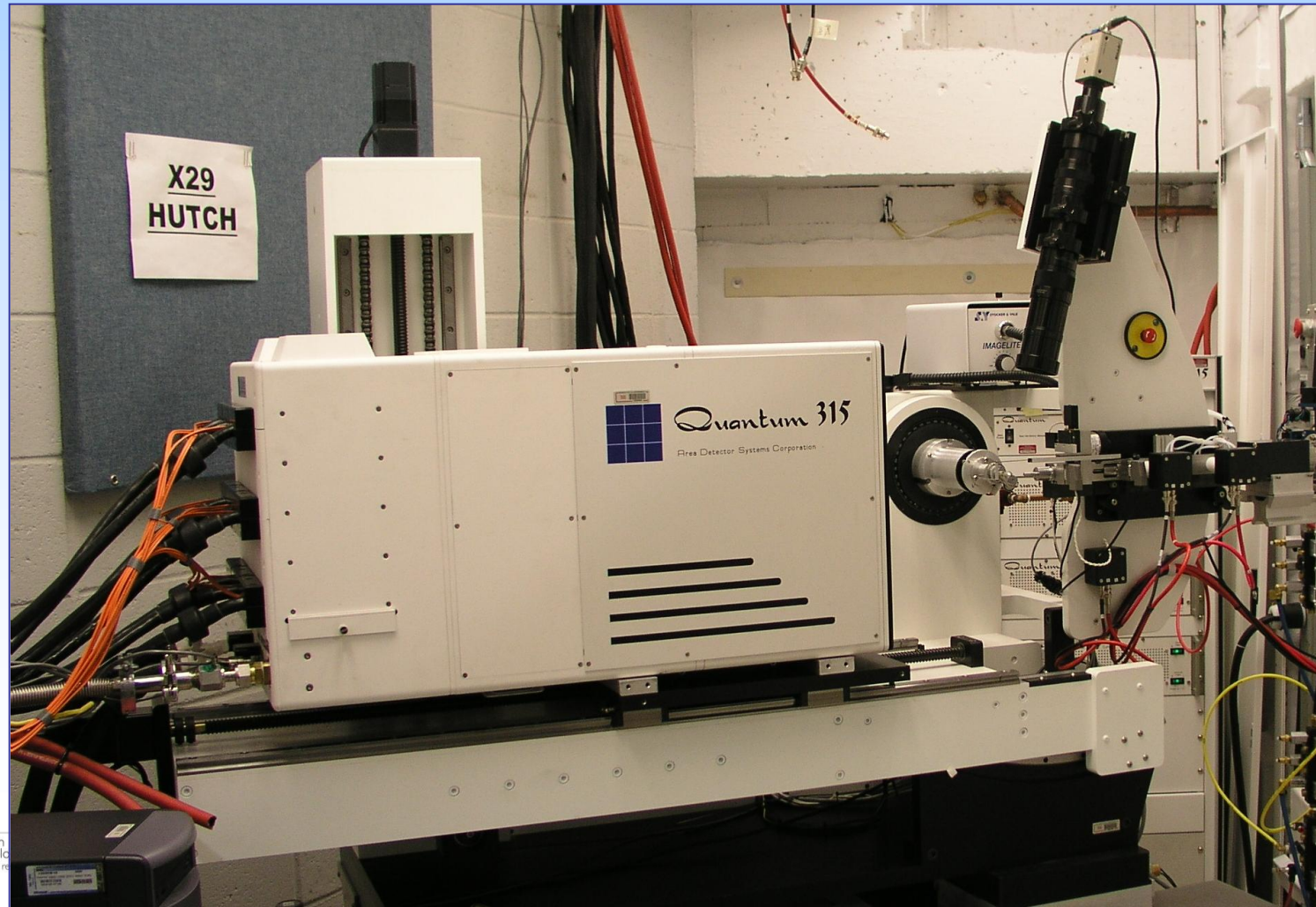
**Like this one, made  
for us by Walter  
Phillips**





And the modern commercial versions are large,  
fast, and very accurate. (8yrs ago)

*Detectors like these are the basis for  
modern, high-throughput crystallography!*



**This is the next generation. It is noise free, and can produce images at 10 per second. (*1yr ago*)**

***This detector will be supplanted in 2-3 years by one that frames at 10,000 Hz!***

## ***The Pilatus 6M***

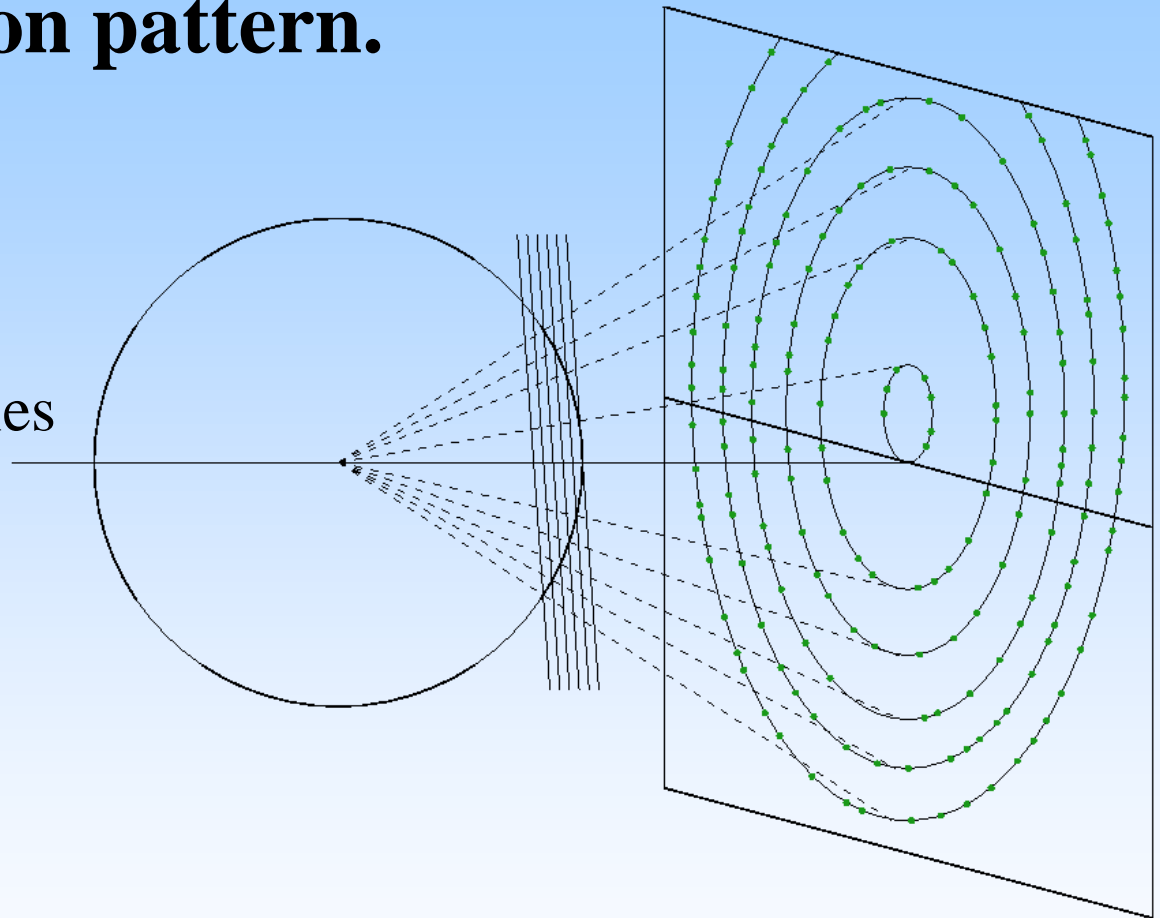
*(six million pixels)*

*Made by Dectris, a spin-off of the Paul Scherer Inst. (Switzerland's answer to Brookhaven National Laboratory)*



# Look at how the reflections are generated in the diffraction pattern.

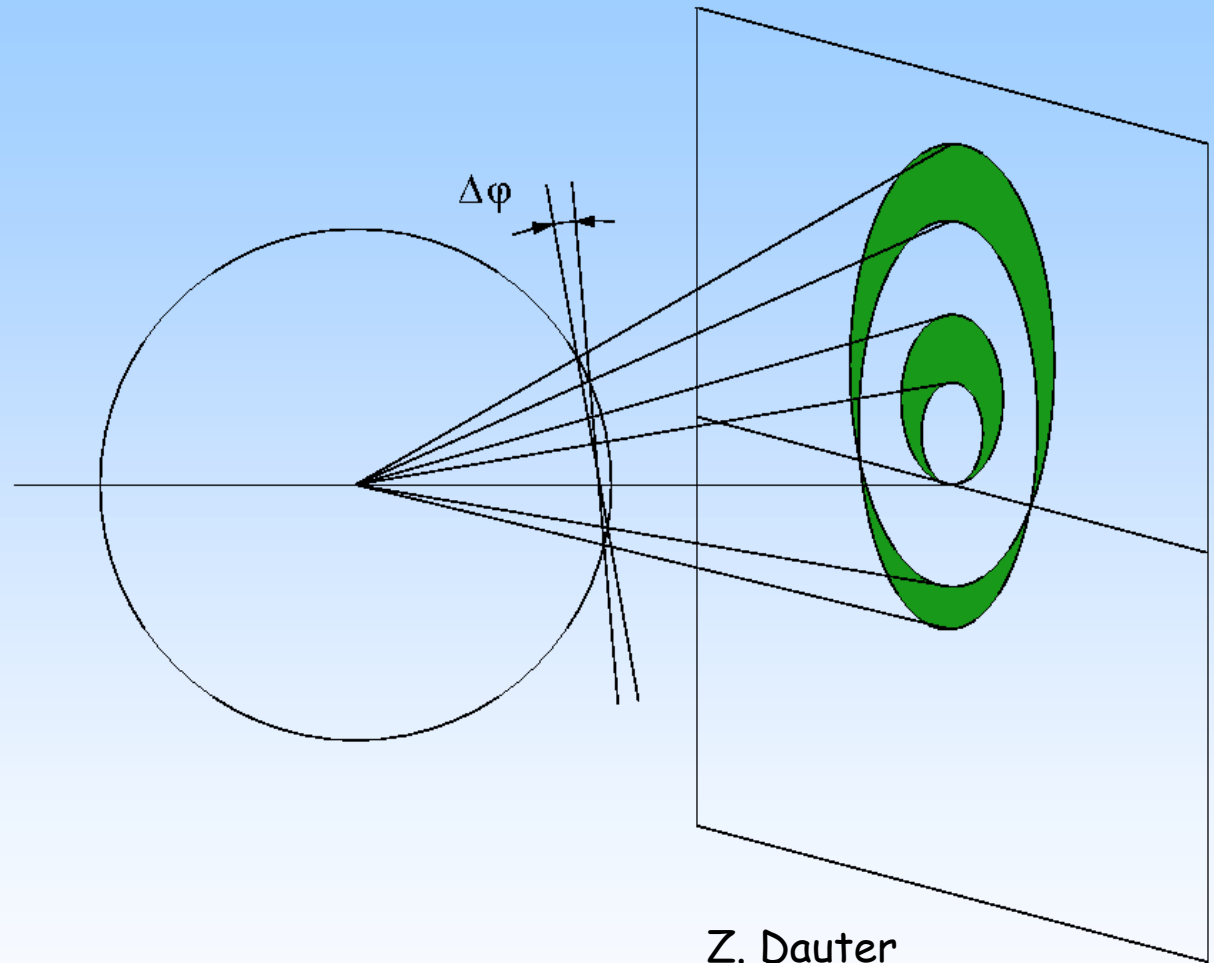
**The planes of spots** in reciprocal space appear as circles of spots on an area-sensitive x-ray detector (film, IP, CCD-based, *etc.*)



Z. Dauter



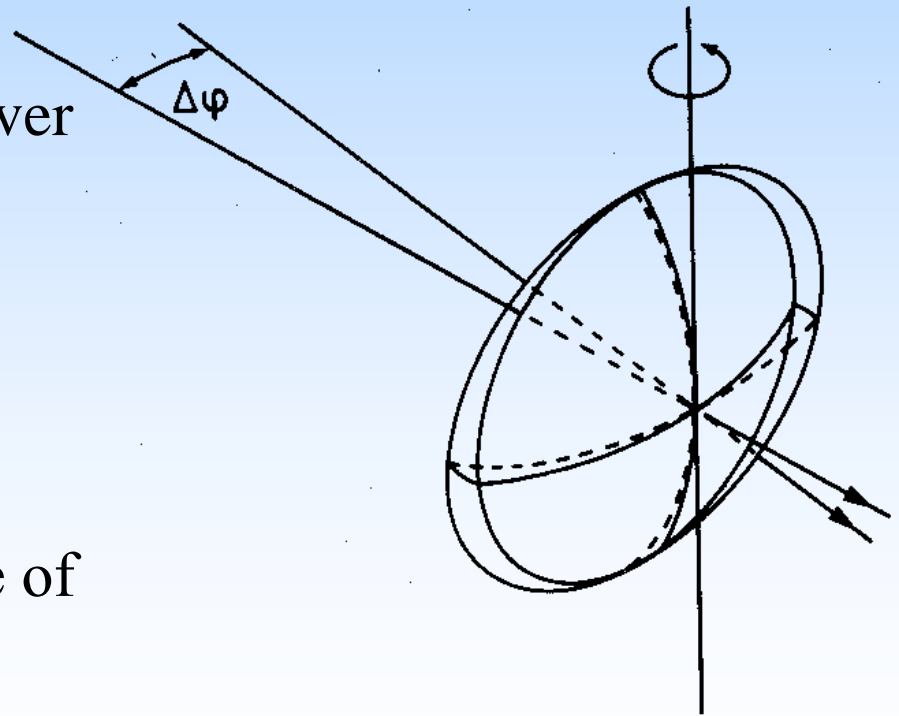
**As the  
crystal is  
rotated, the  
circles are  
extended into  
“lunes”**



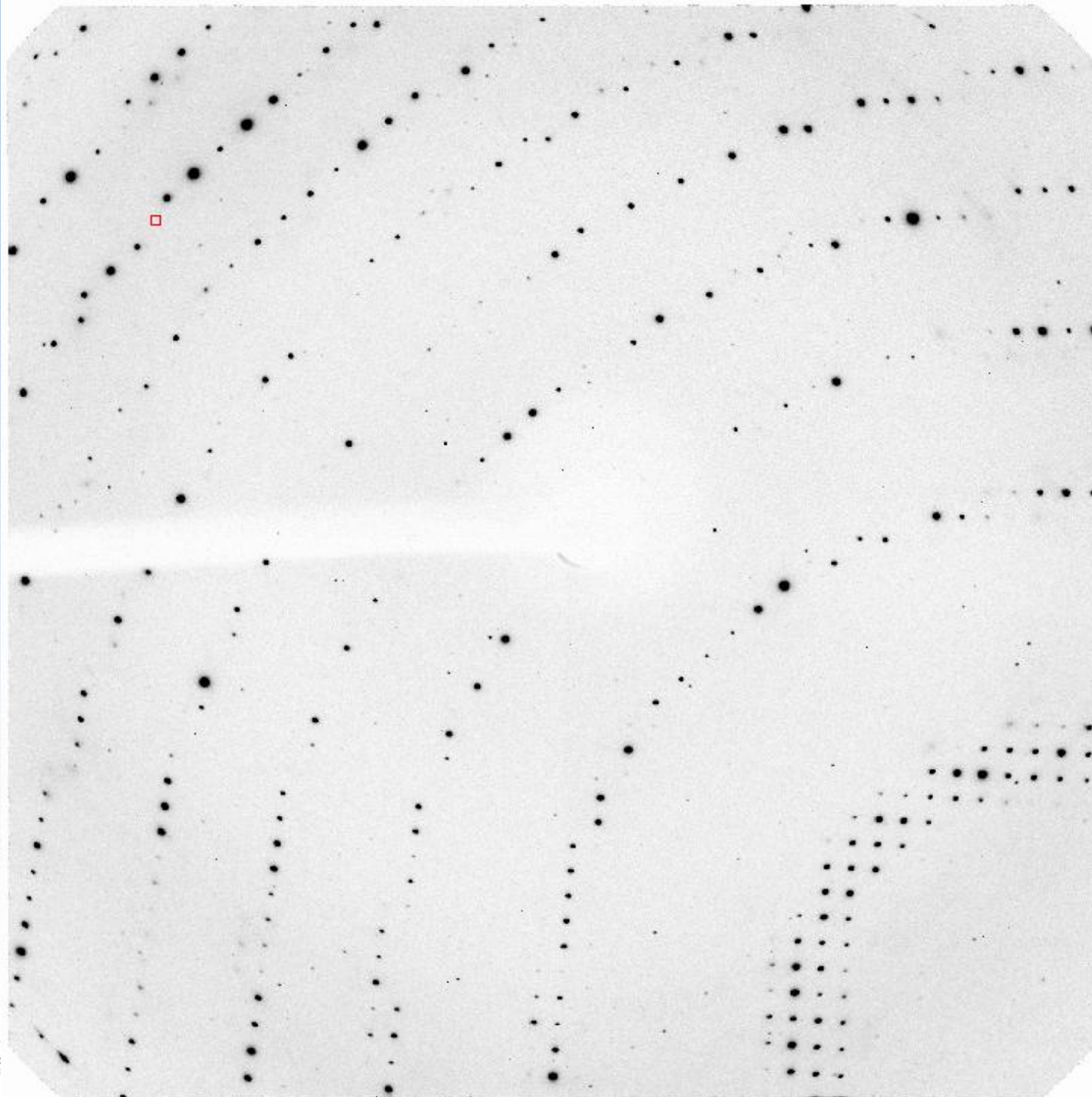
Z. Dauter

# Rotation sweeps out a strangely-shaped volume. However...

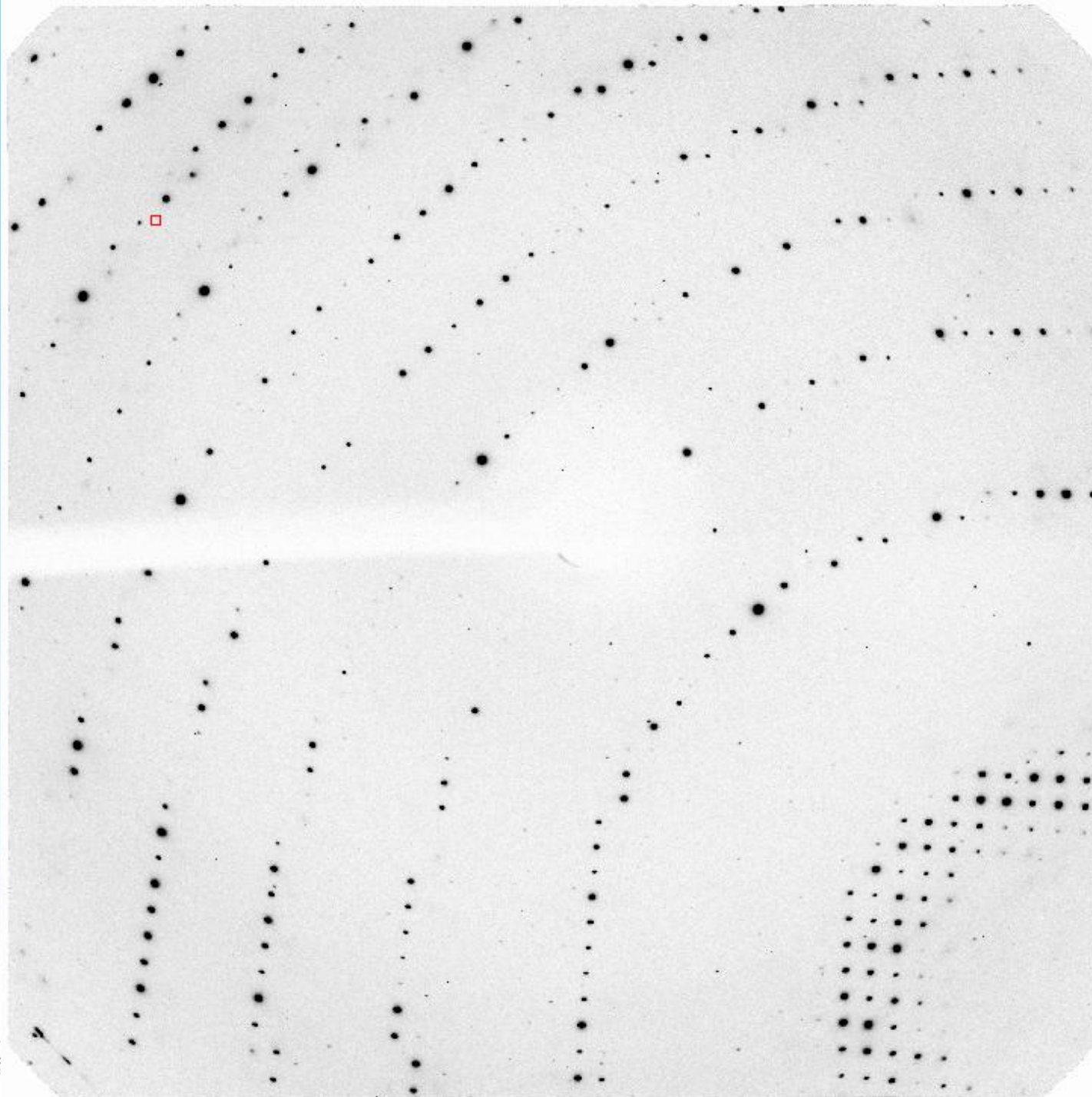
- Many r.l. points will be recorded during a single short rotation.
- Contiguous rotations will cover much of the reciprocal lattice.
- The “camera” is simple: an axis, a film (or electronic detector), and a shutter.
- It’s easy to substitute a range of detectors.

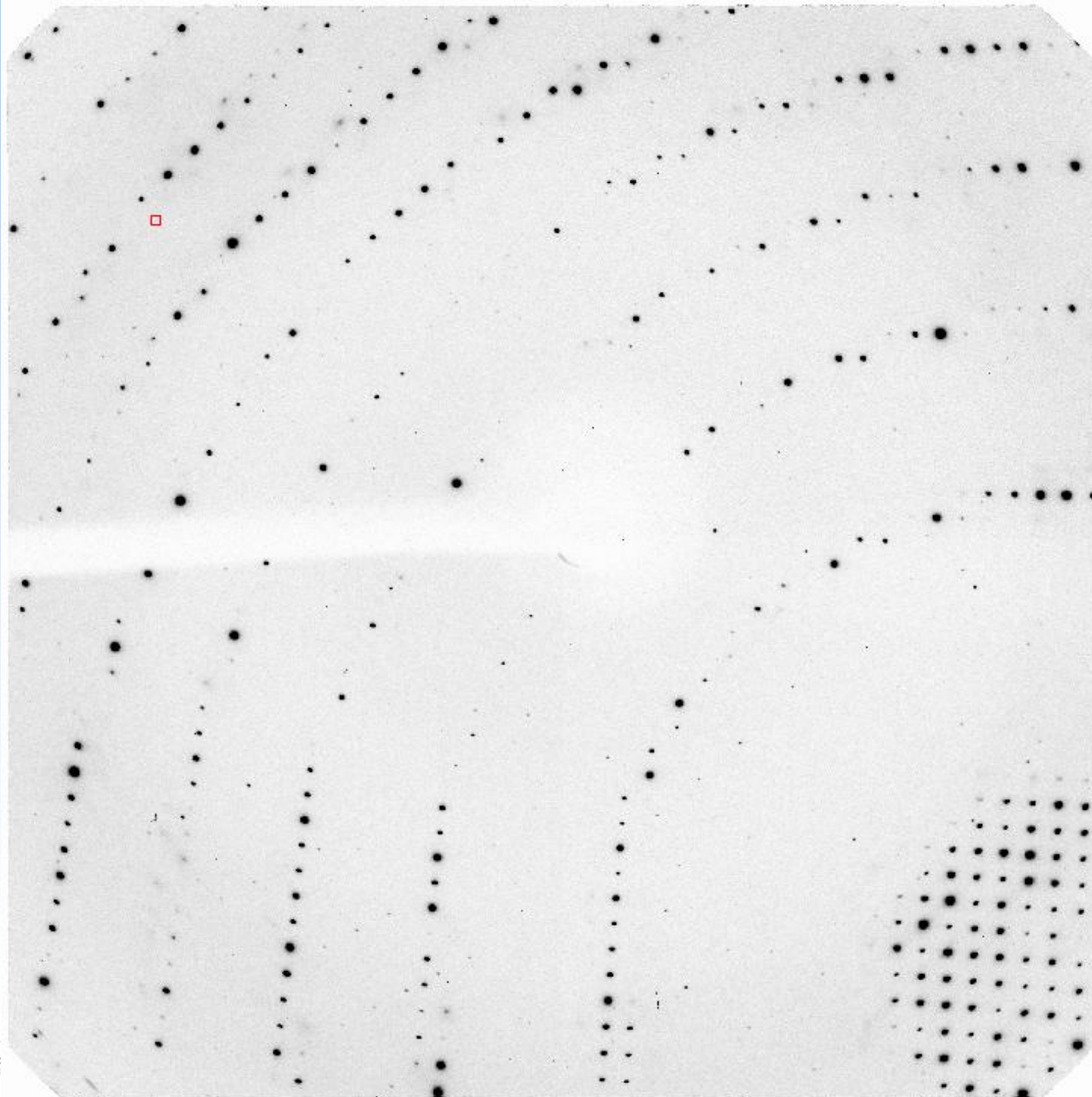


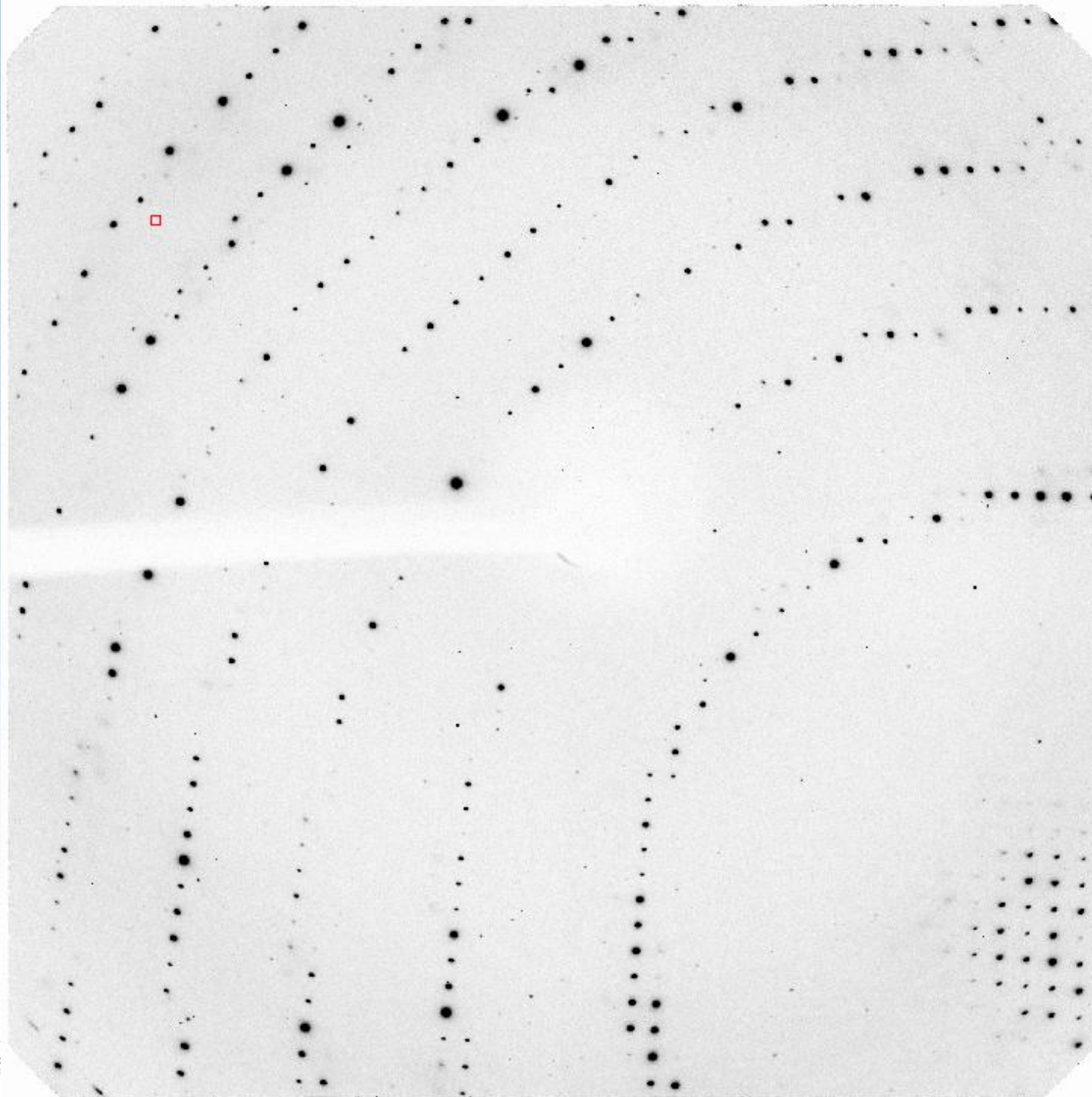
**Let's look at a series of images from a CCD-based detector, each representing one degree of crystal rotation**



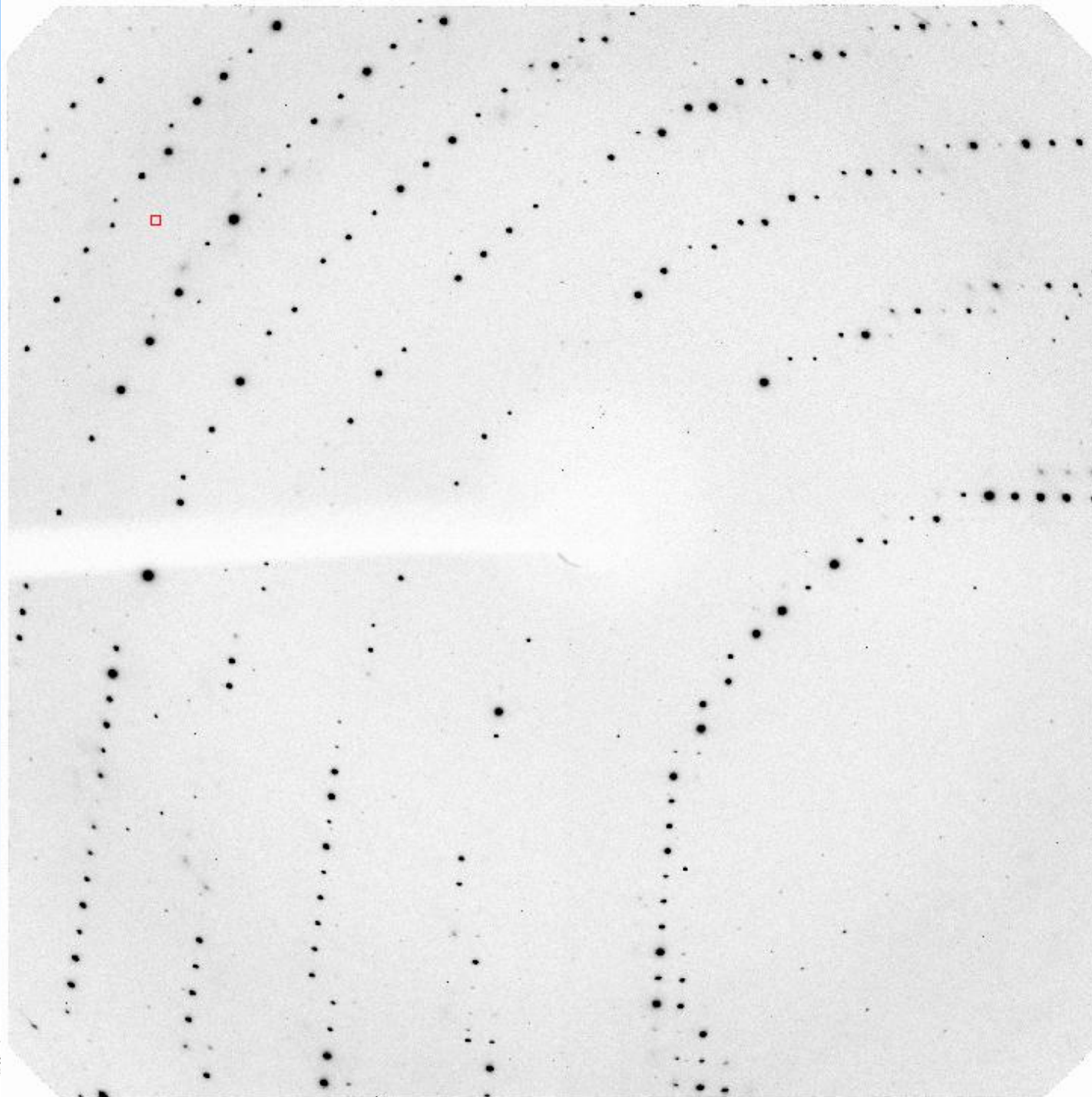




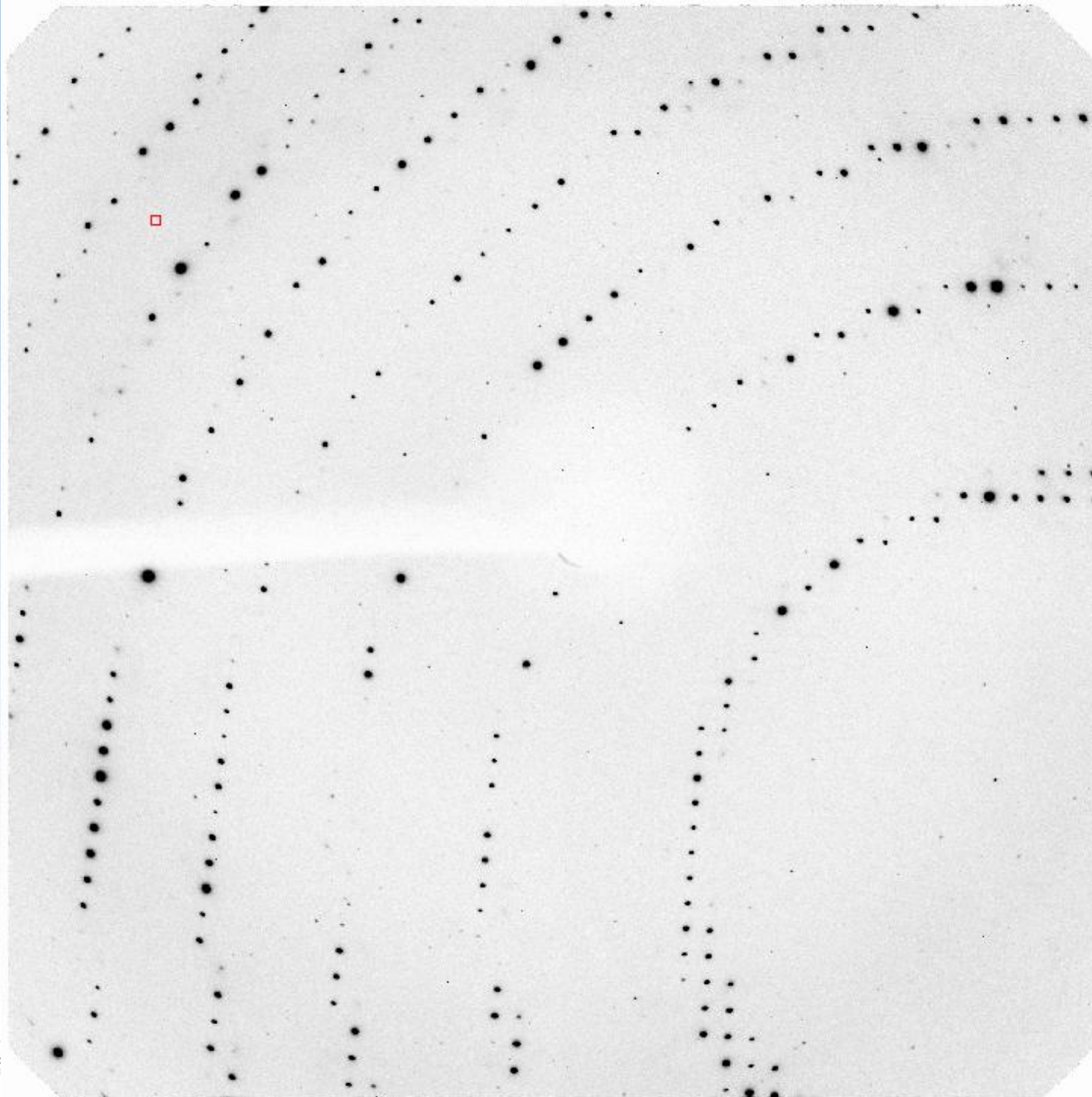


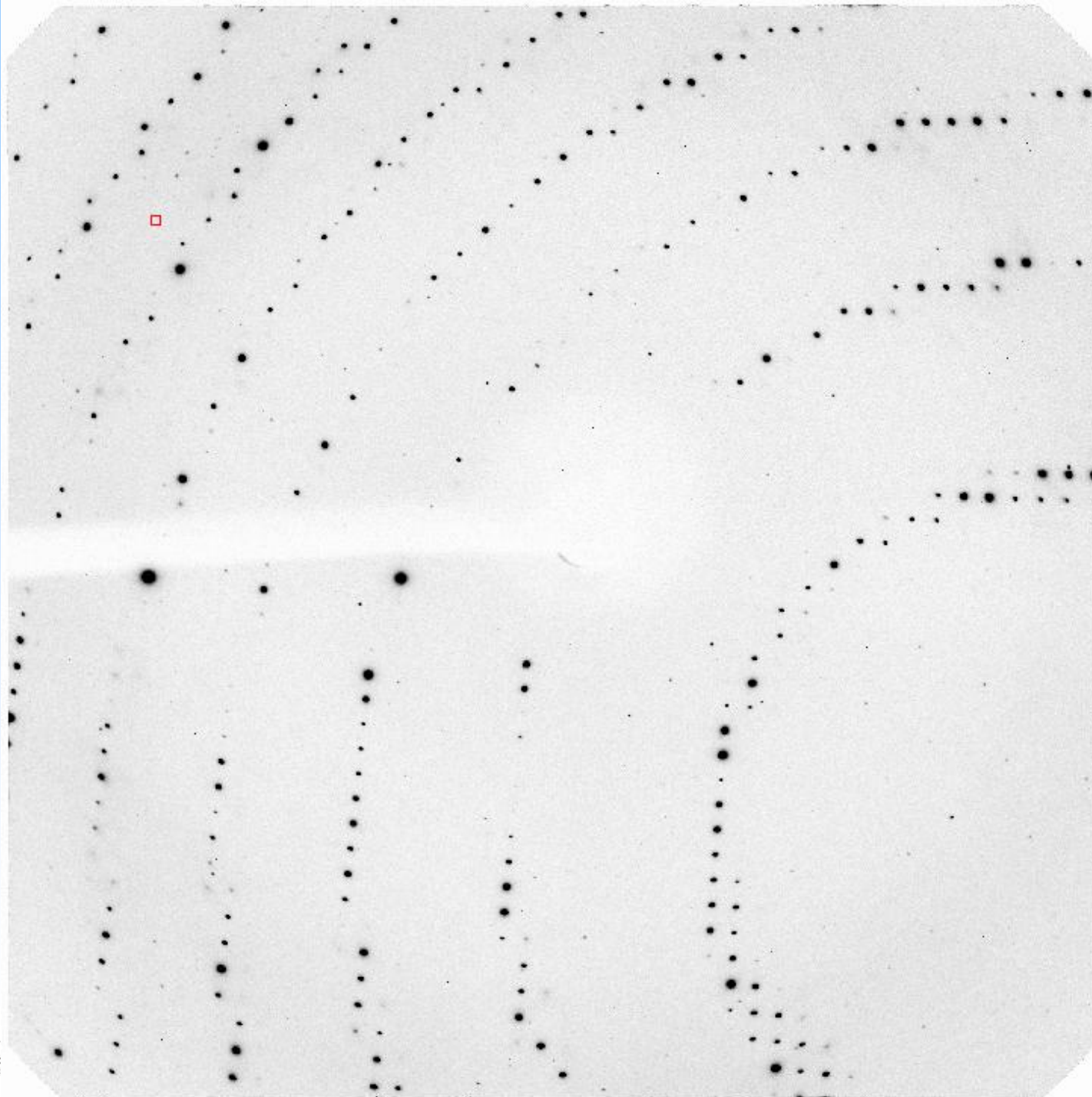


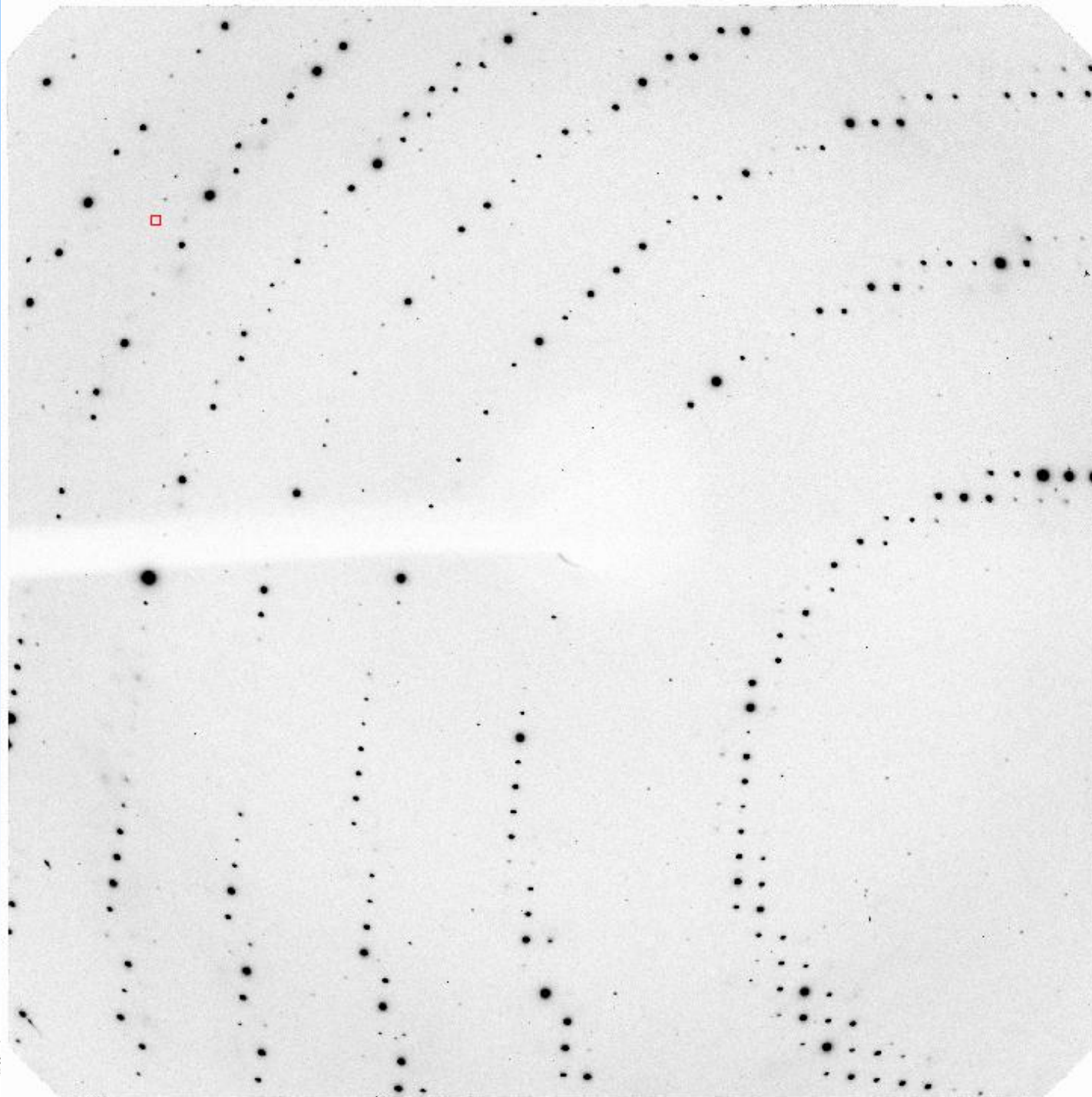




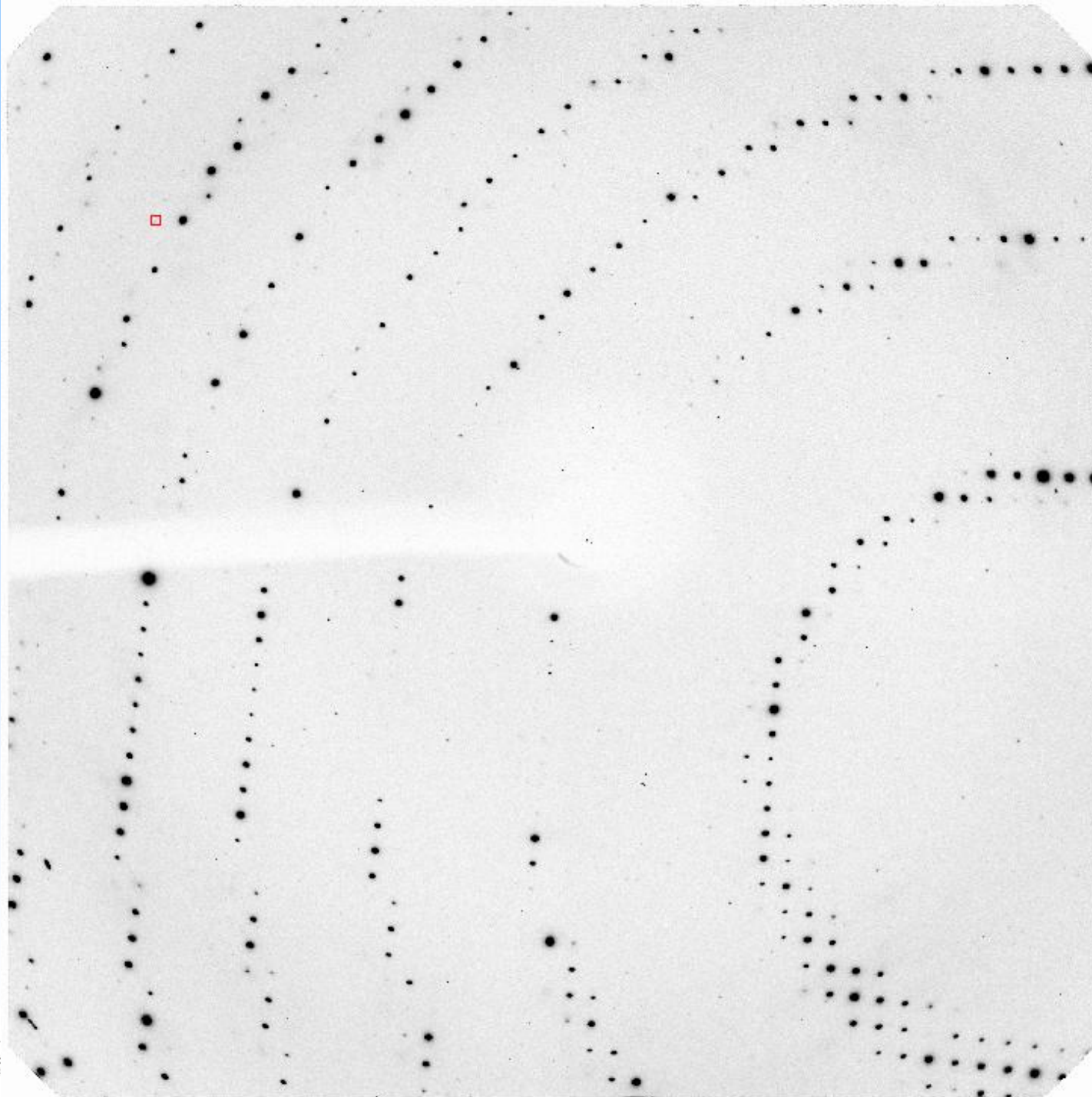


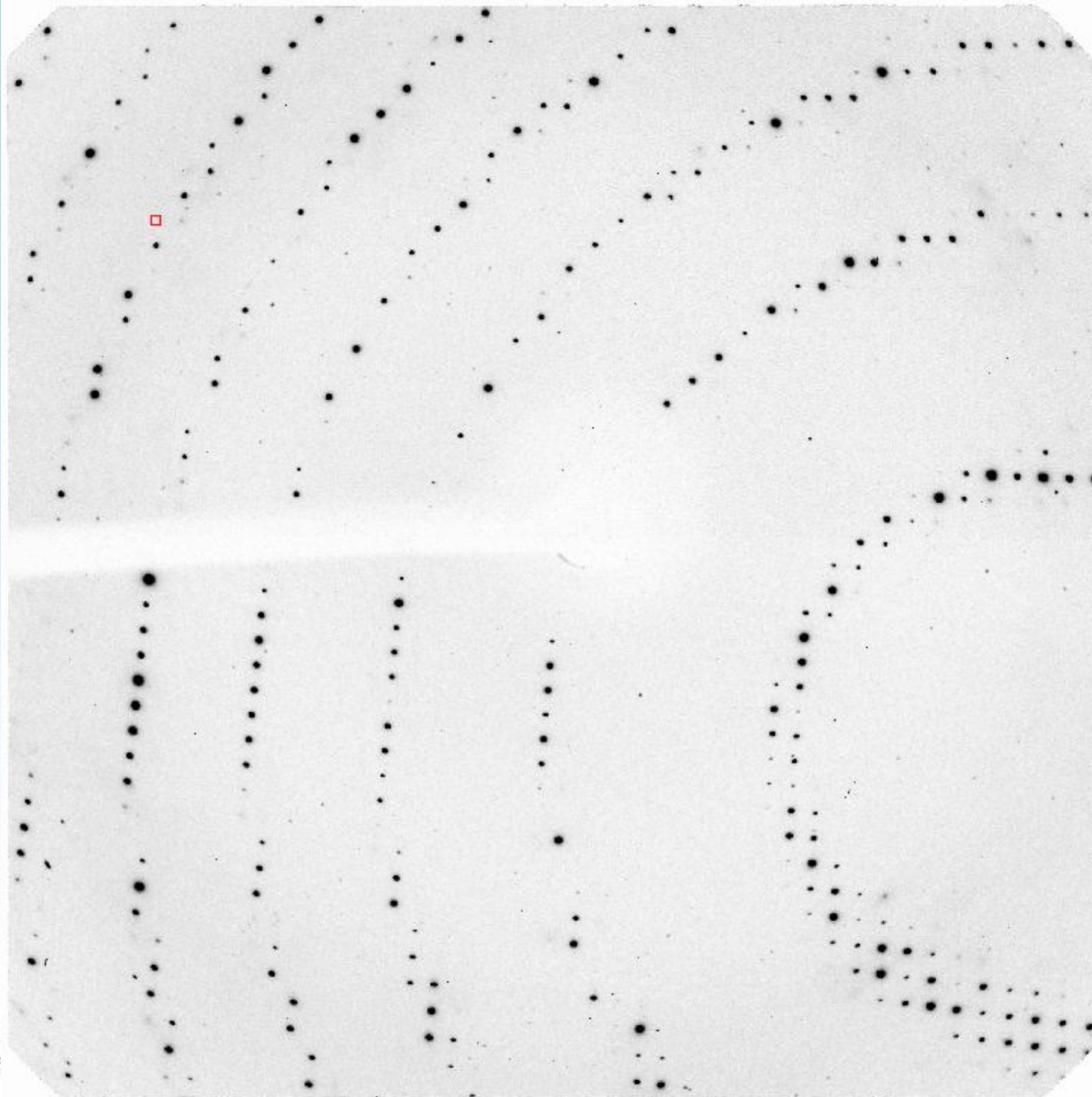


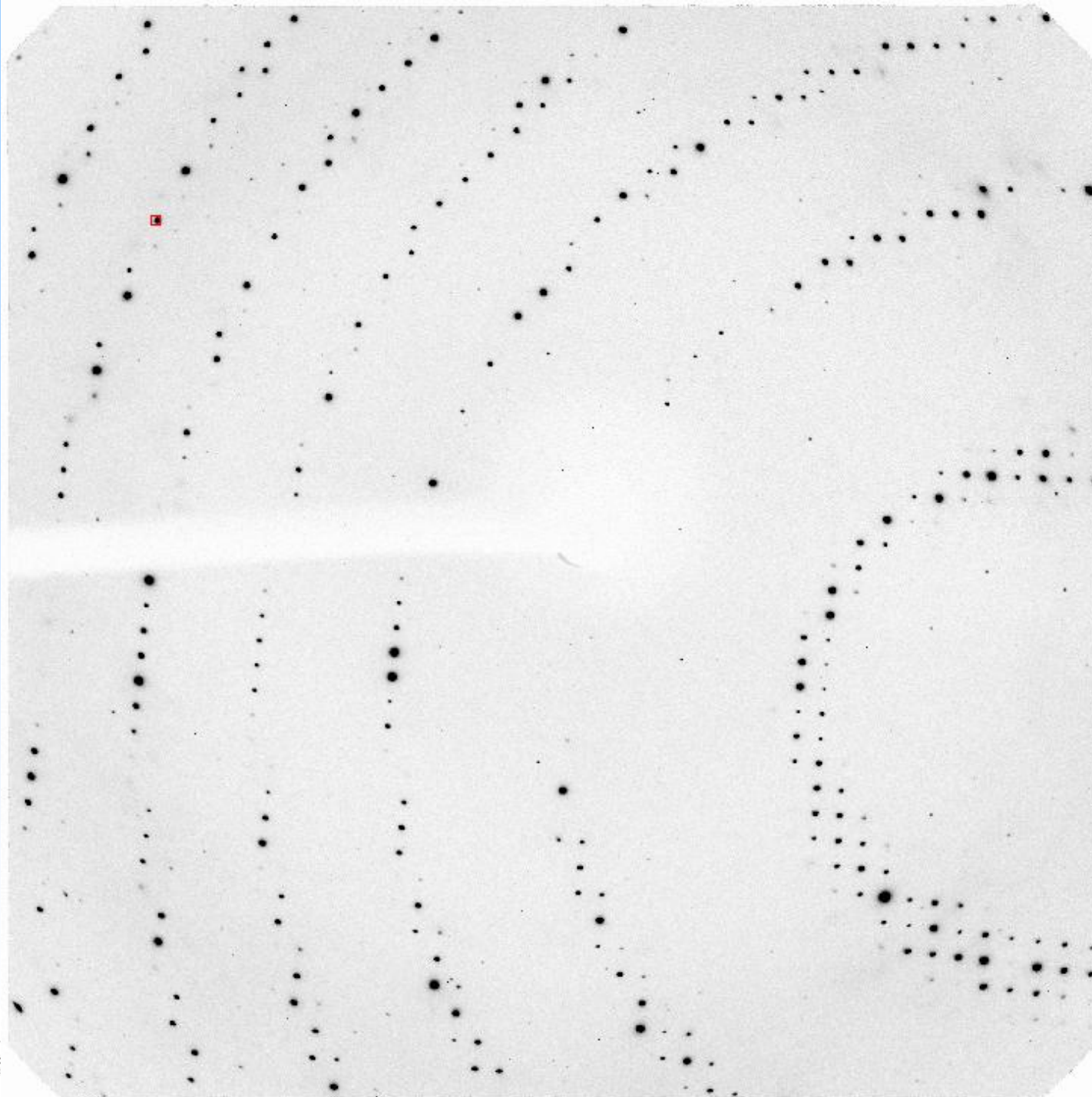




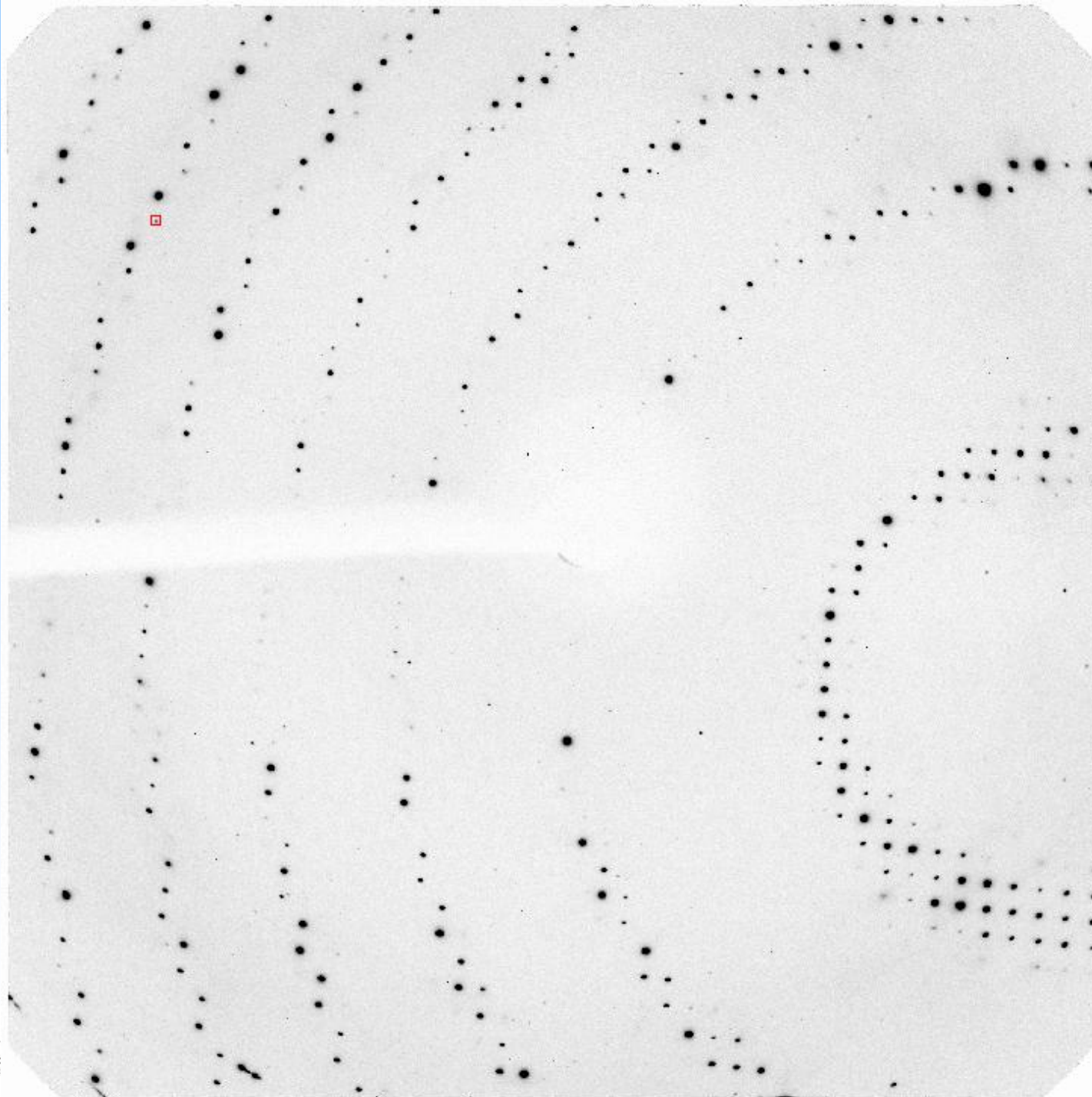




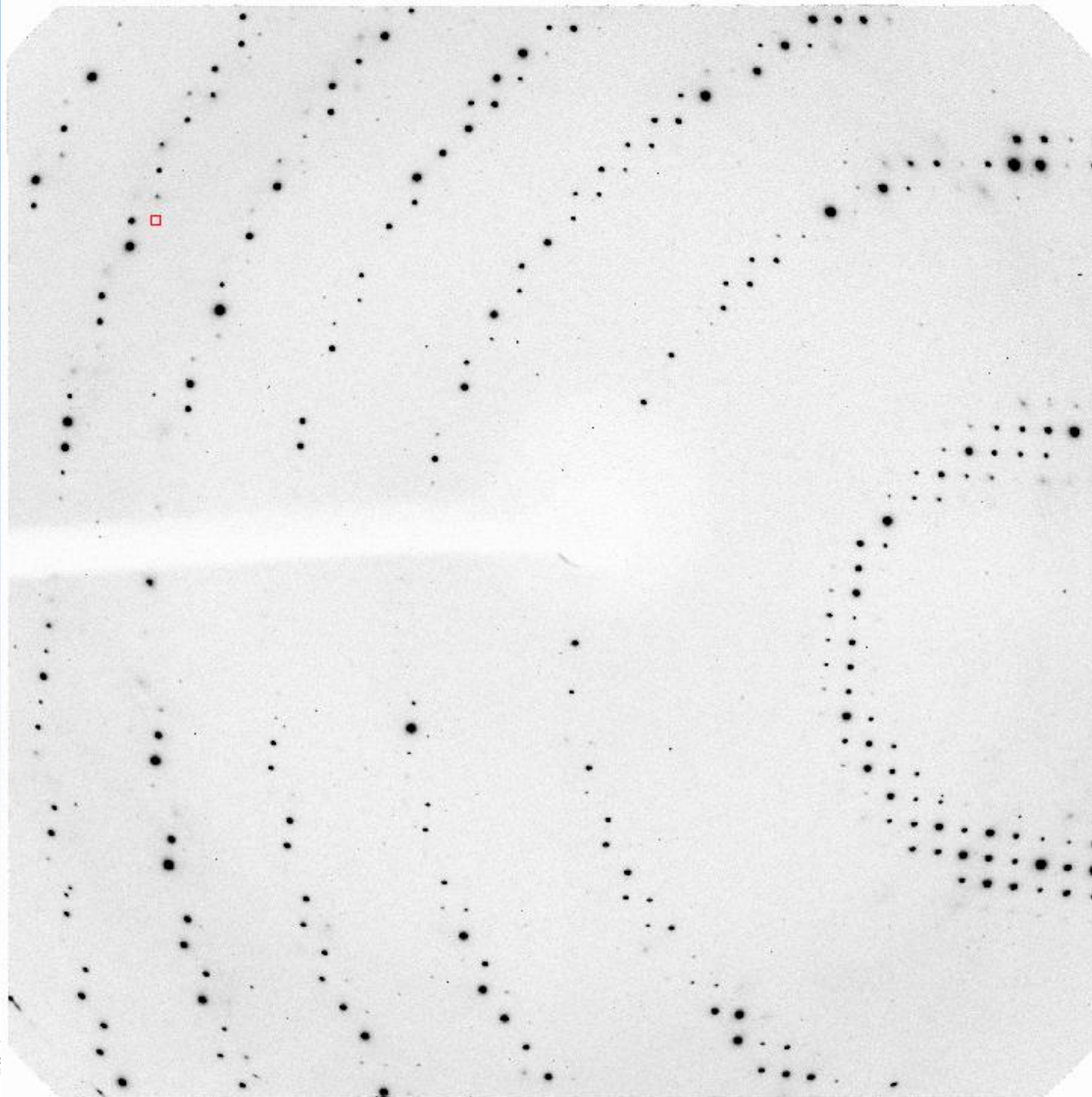


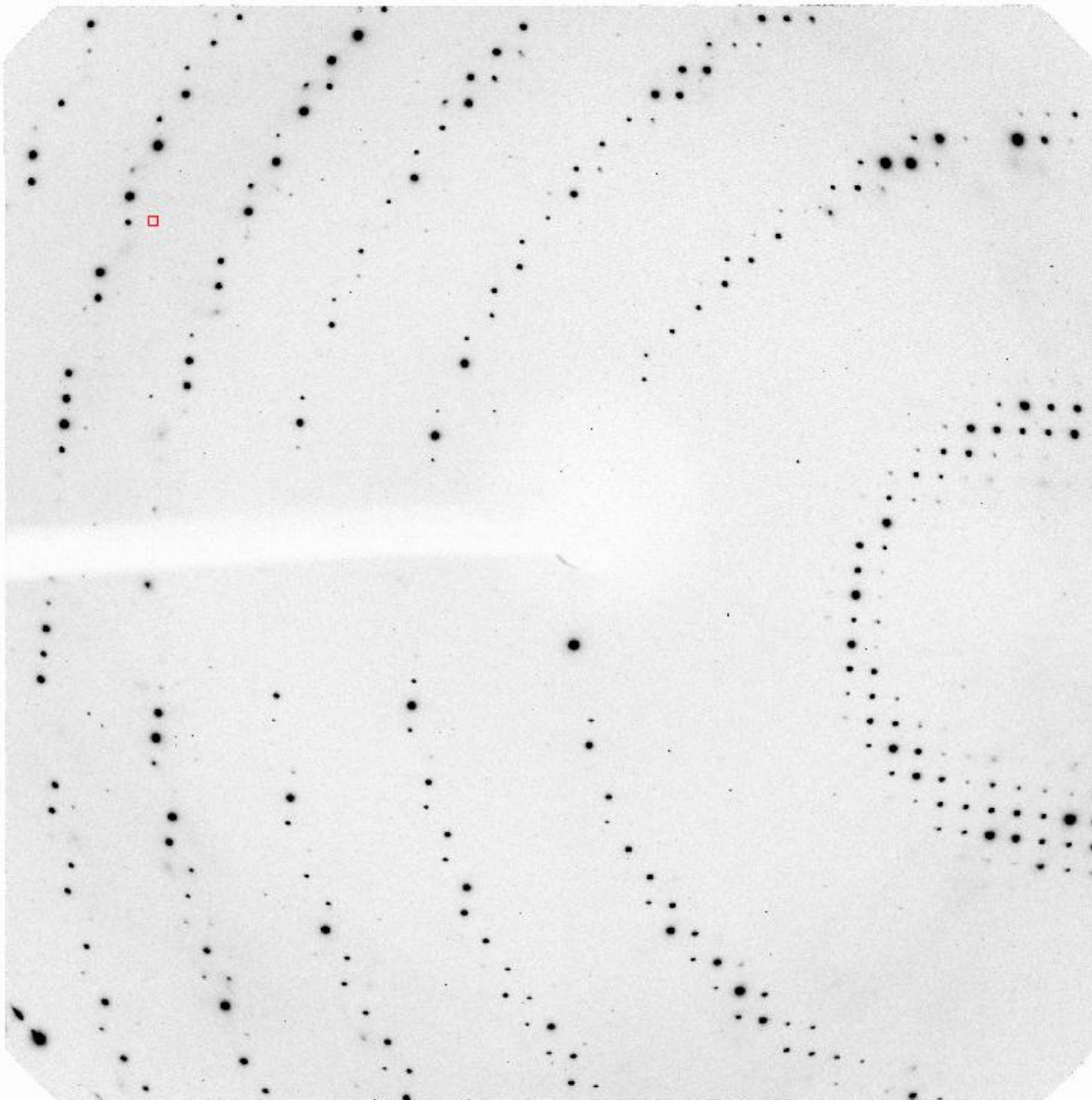


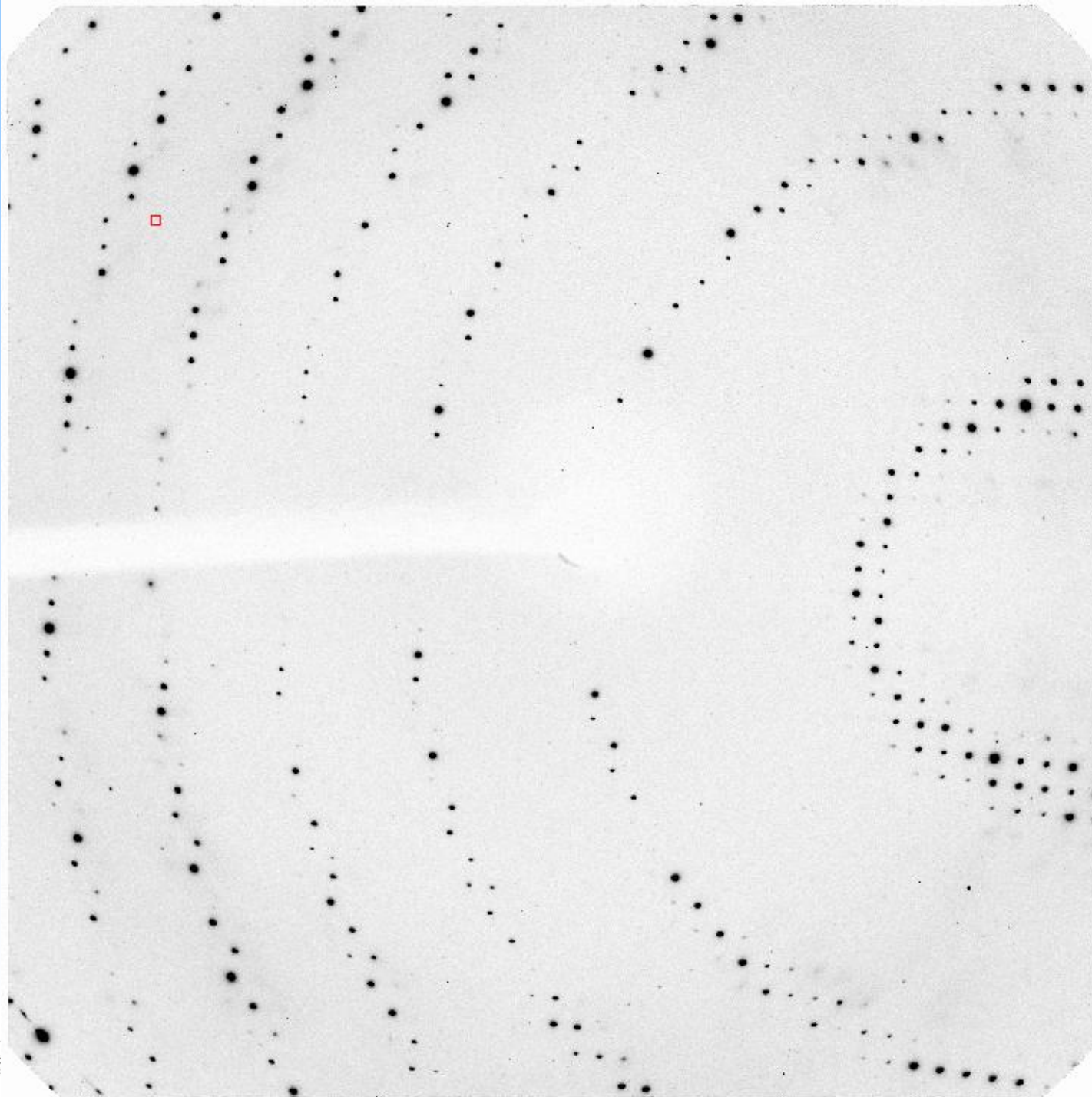




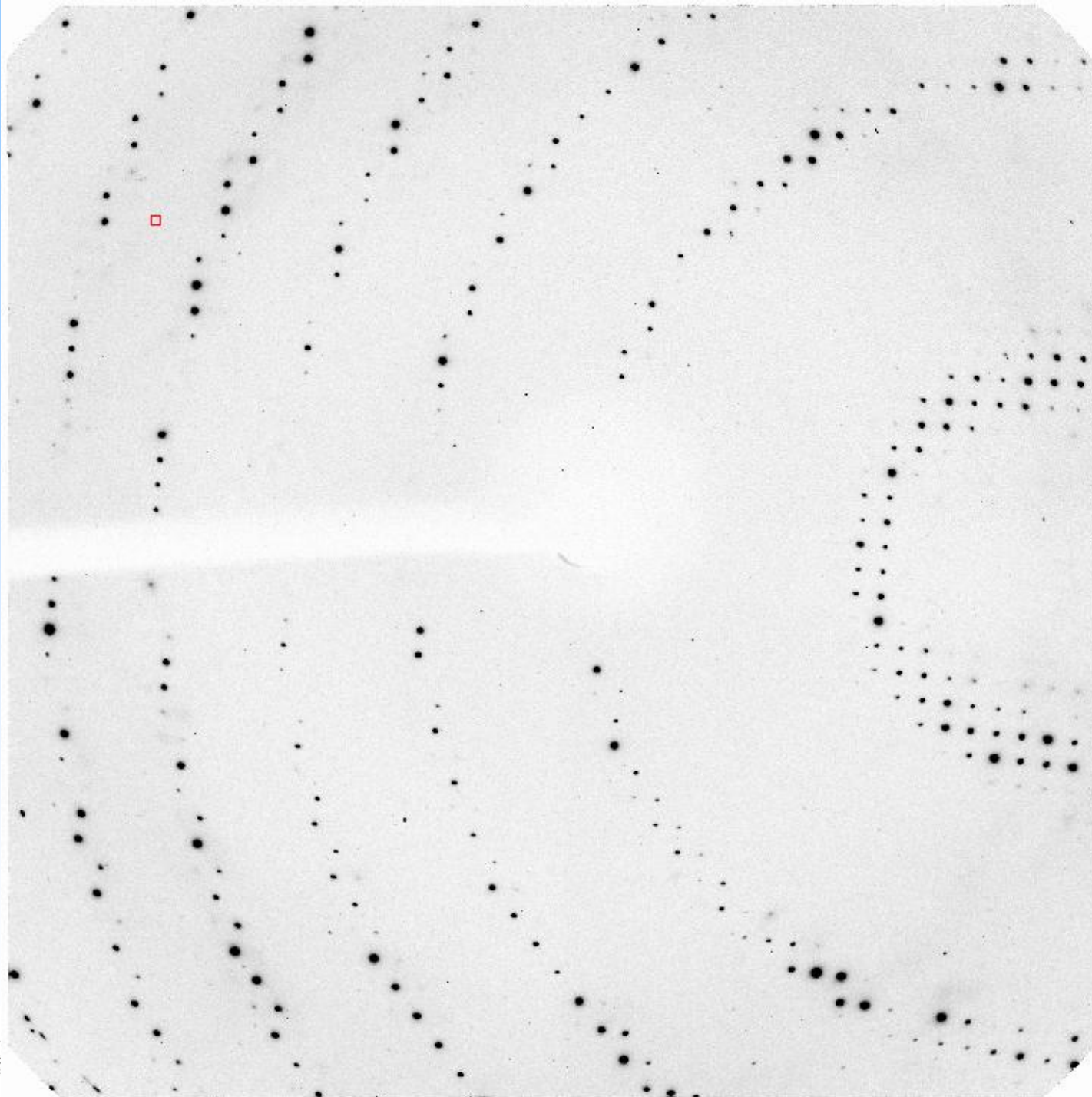


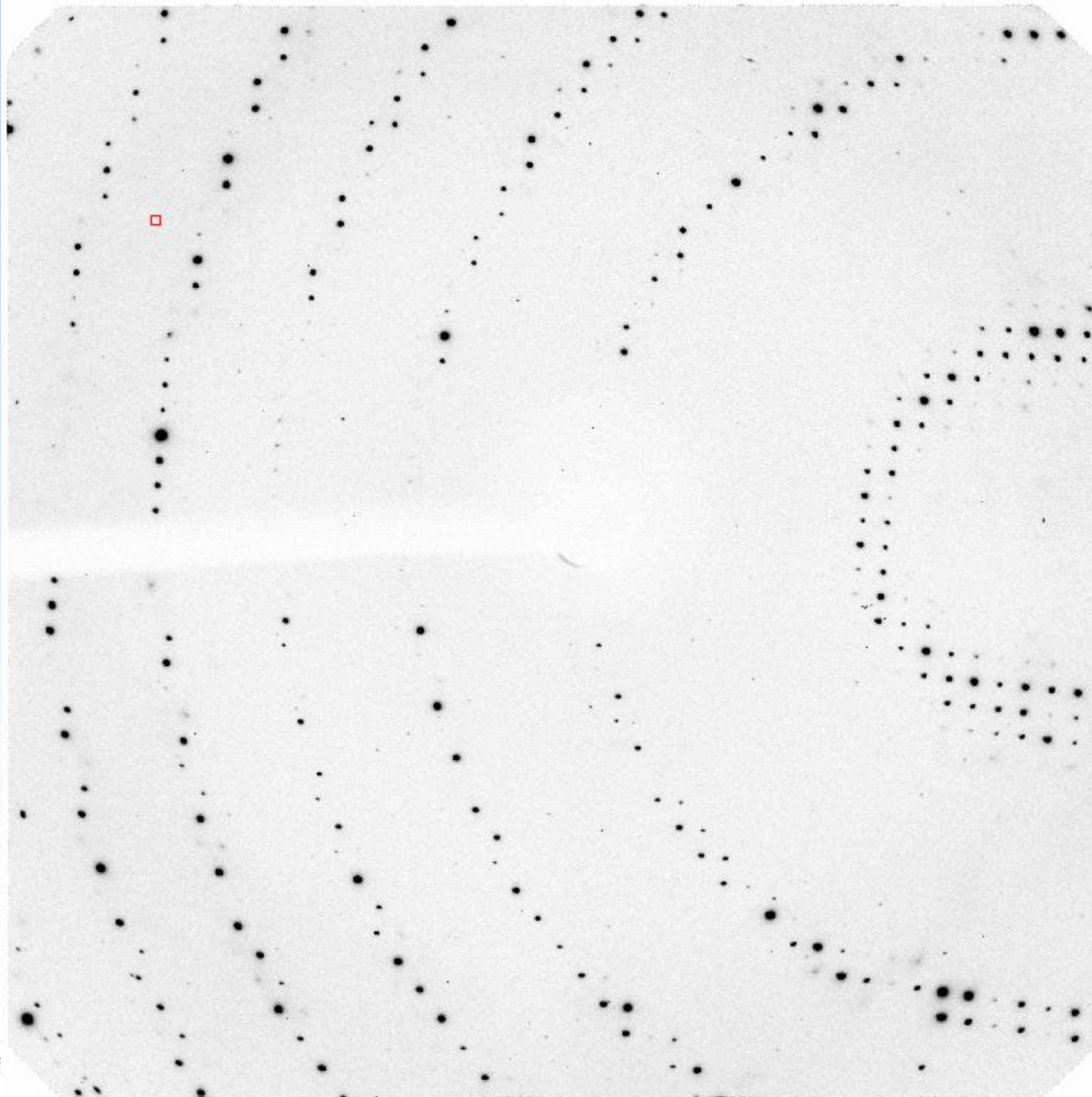


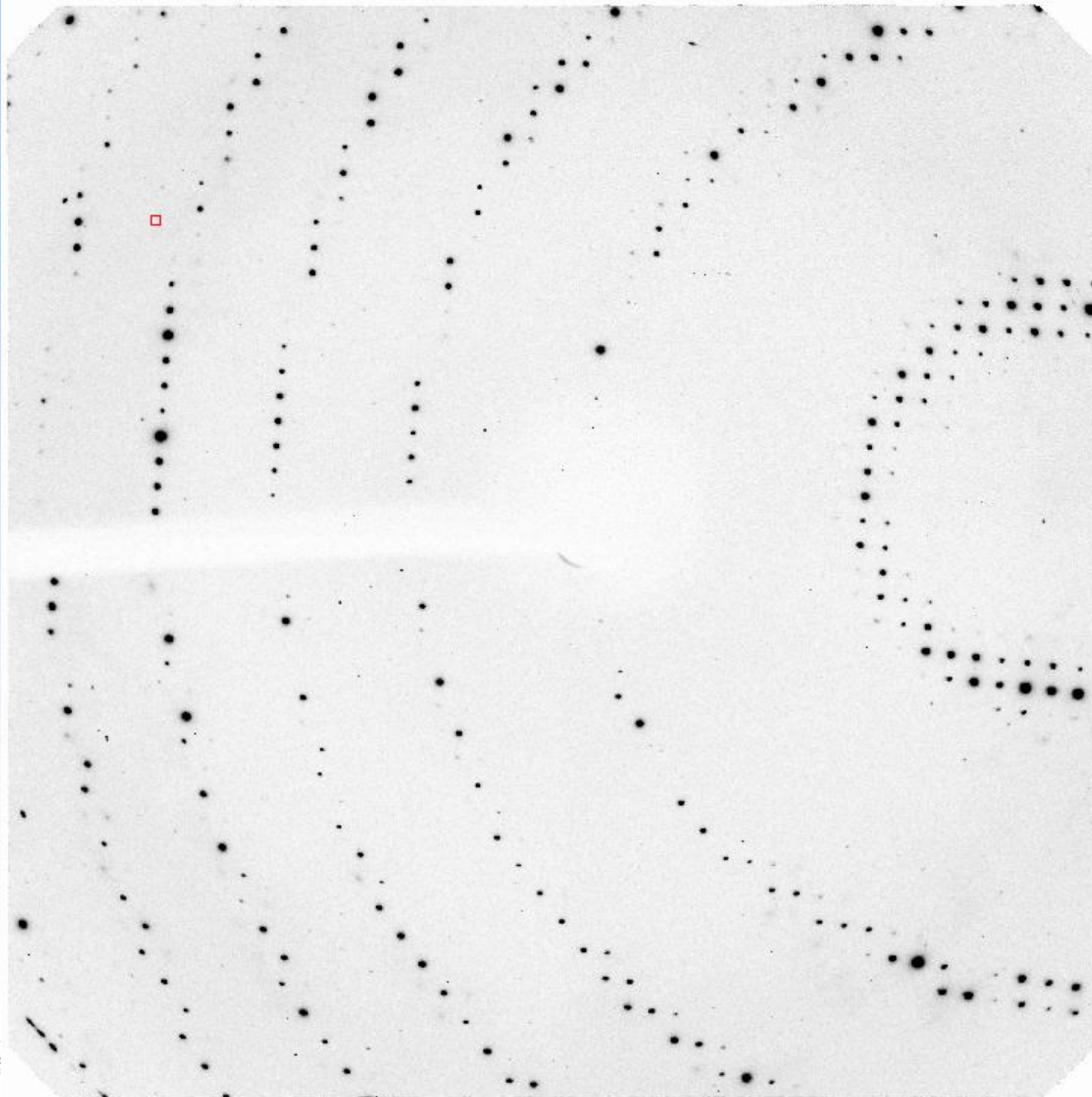




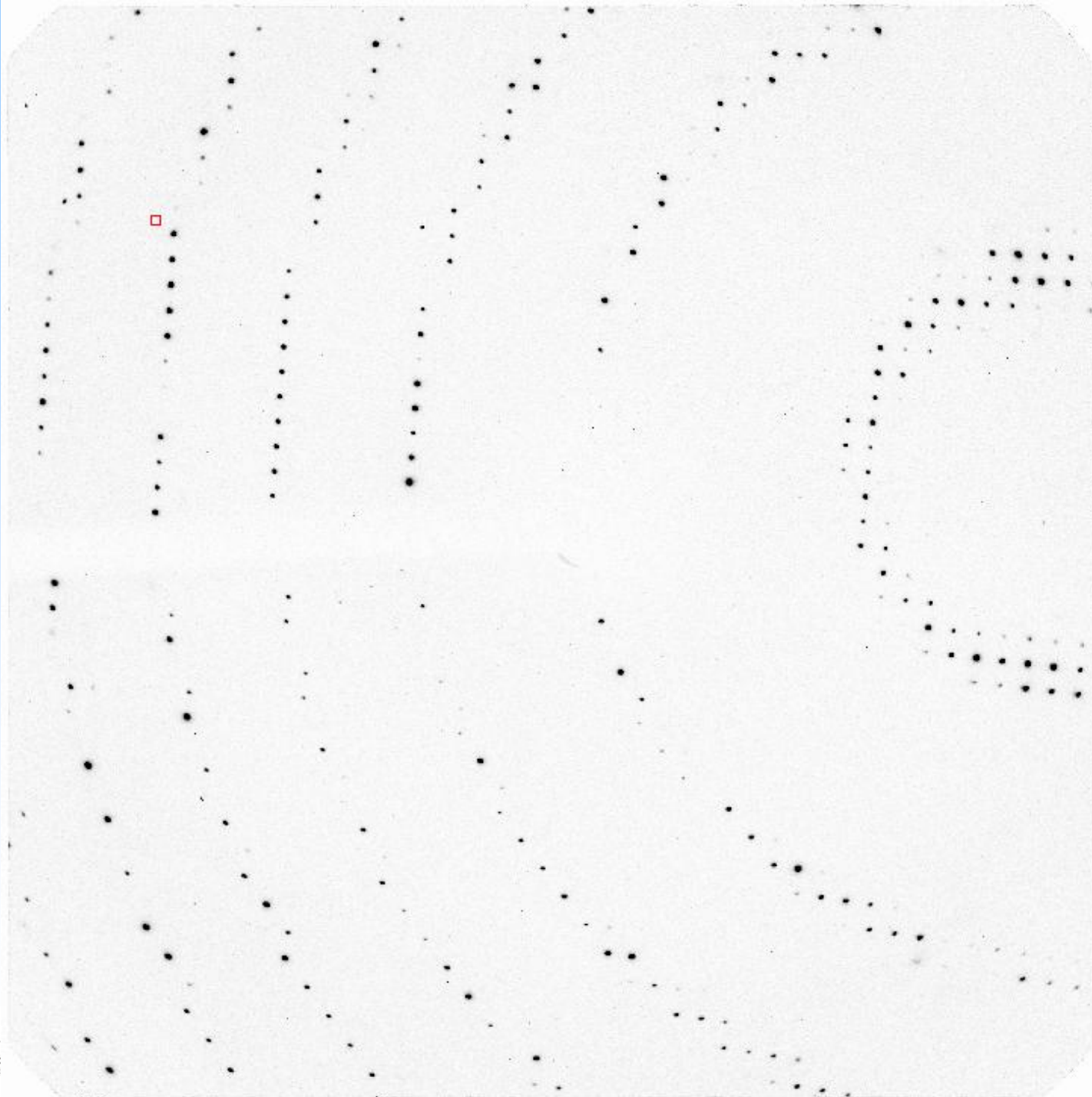






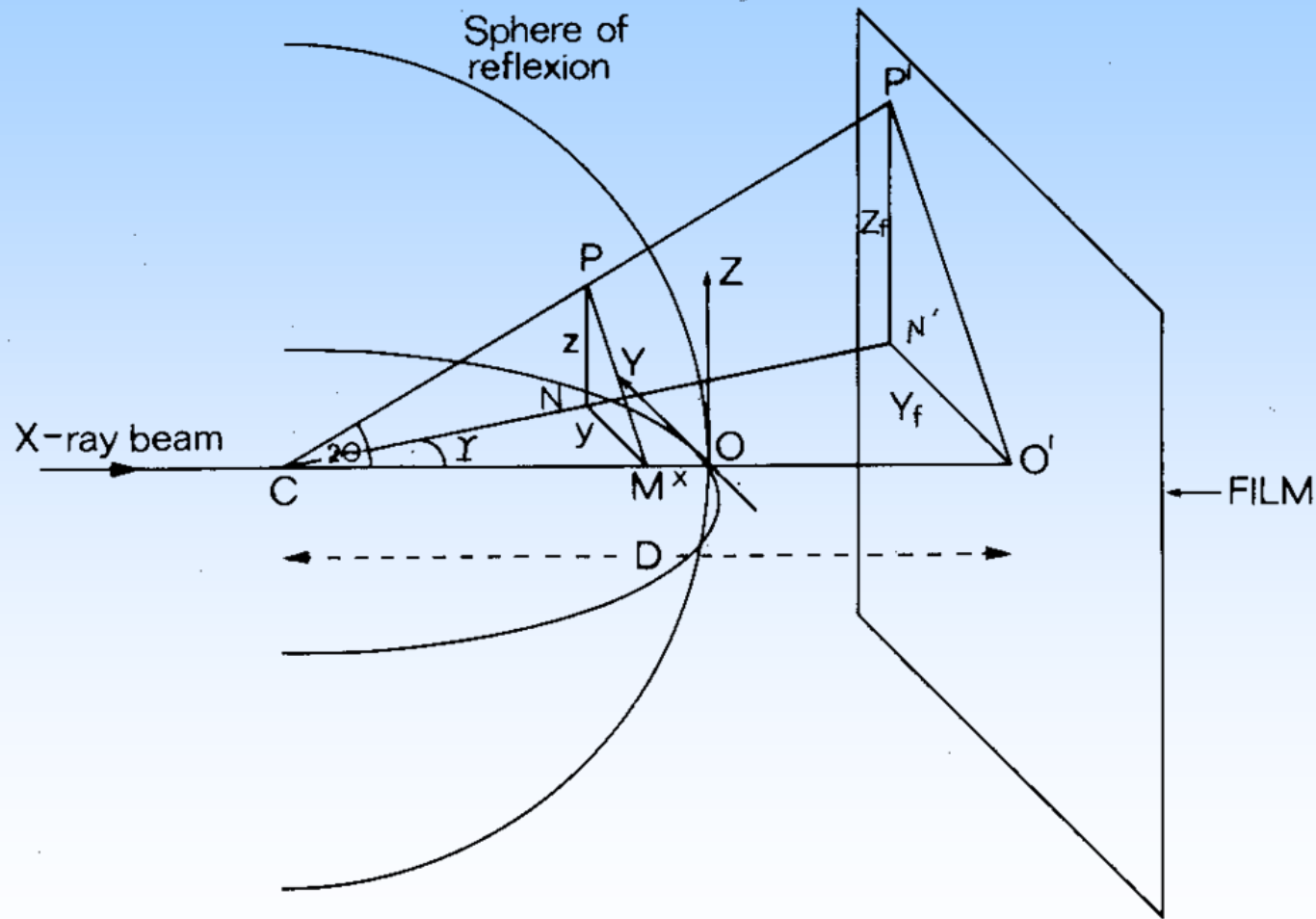








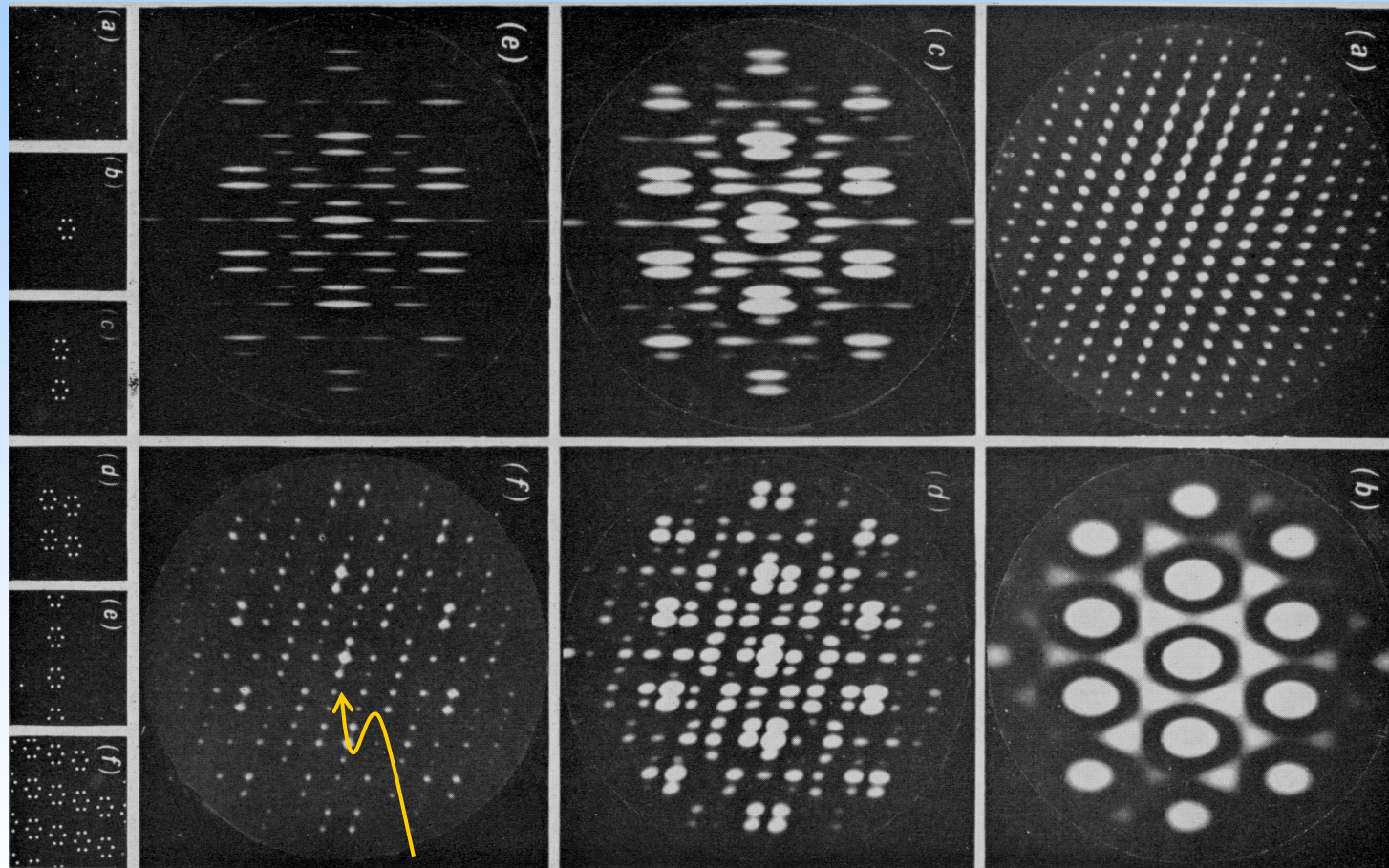
**The position of the reciprocal-lattice points can be nicely related to the coordinates of reflections on the film/detector**



# Outline for the Lecture

- Remind you how much you already know -- lenses, crystals
- Show why crystals give diffraction spots.
- Develop the idea of “The Reciprocal Lattice”
- Give some idea how we might actually measure diffraction data
- **Show how, given a crystal, we can calculate the diffraction pattern**
- Conversely, show how to calculate the structure from the diffraction
- Describe the importance of symmetry to diffraction
- Outline the structure-solving methods -- heavy atoms and MADness

Now we use the Taylor and Lipson figures to see how the **contents** of the crystal relate to the diffraction pattern.



crystal

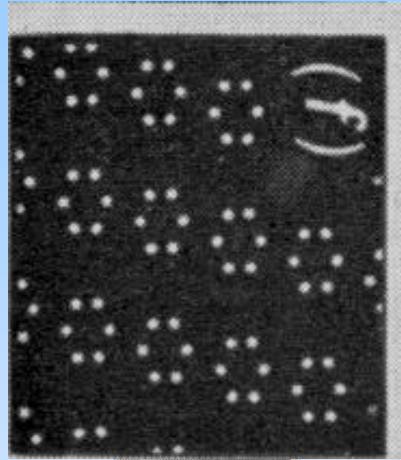
Coordinates of points  
are "indices."

diffraction

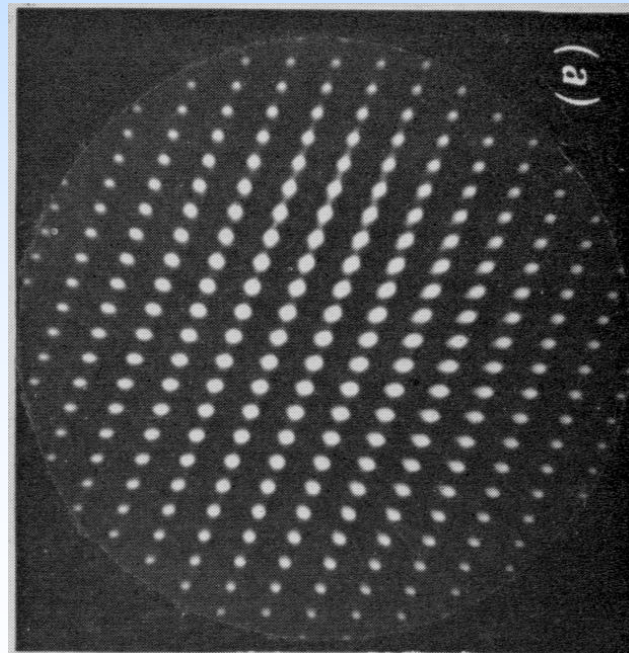
Notice (1)  
The sym-  
metry, and  
(2) how the  
continuous  
diffraction  
pattern of  
one molec-  
ule (b) is  
"sampled"  
by the lat-  
tice of dif-  
fraction  
points.

# Review: Do we understand the real/reciprocal lattice idea?

Crystal –  
**Real Lattice**



Diffraction –  
**Reciprocal Lattice**



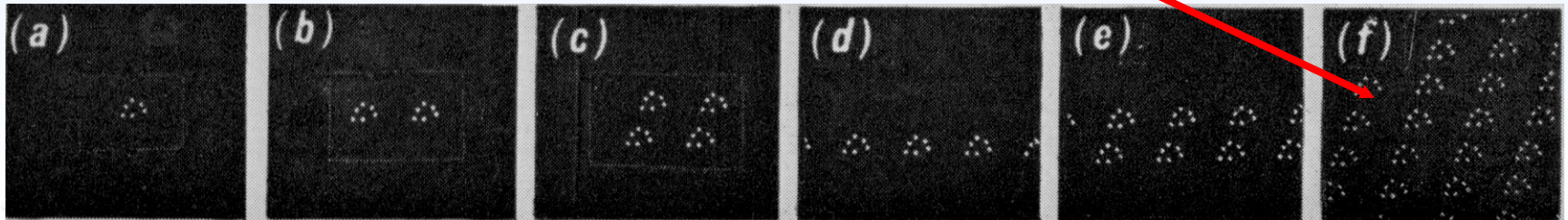
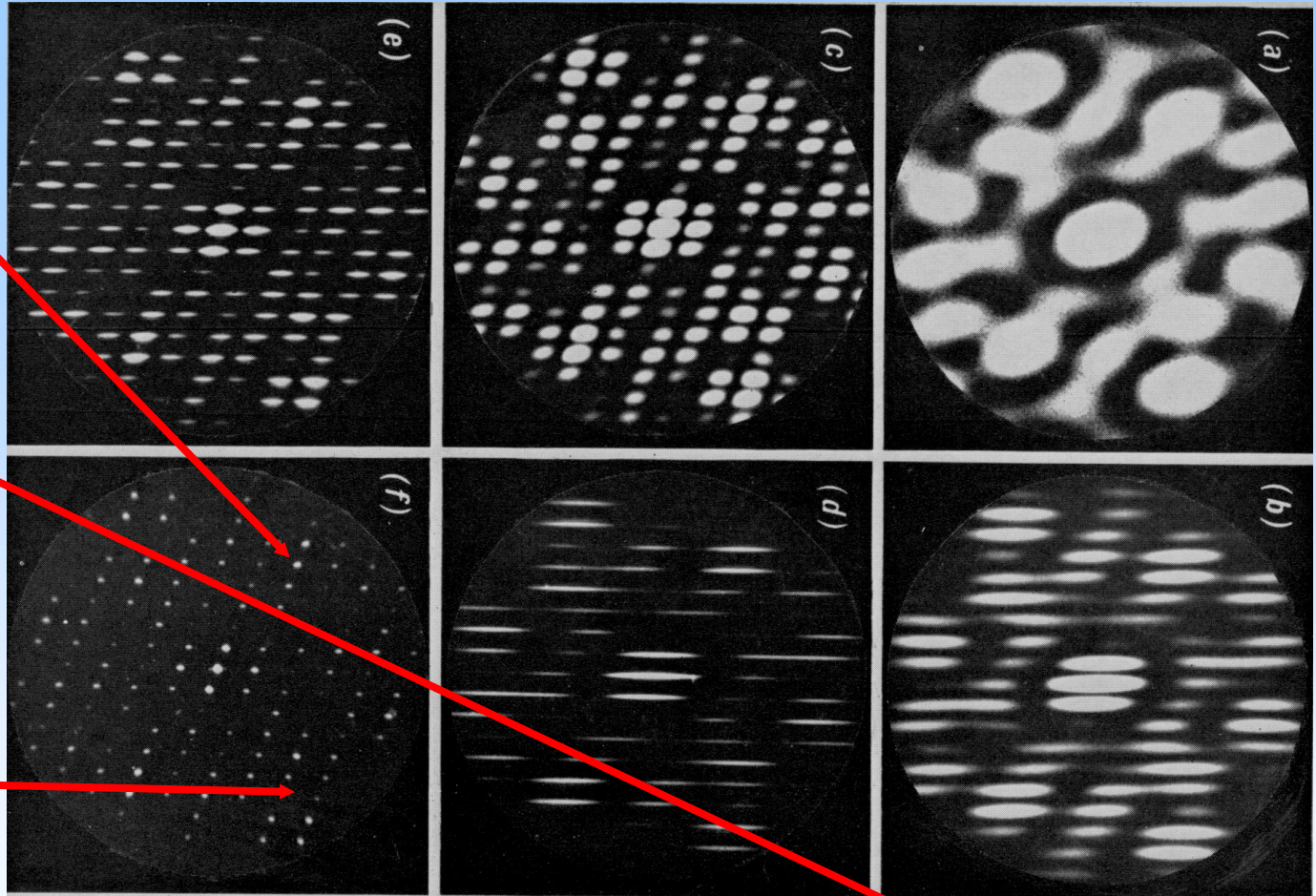
Confirm that the vectors perpendicular to the **Crystal-Lattice planes** are parallel to the **Reciprocal Lattice vectors**, and that the reciprocal distances make sense.



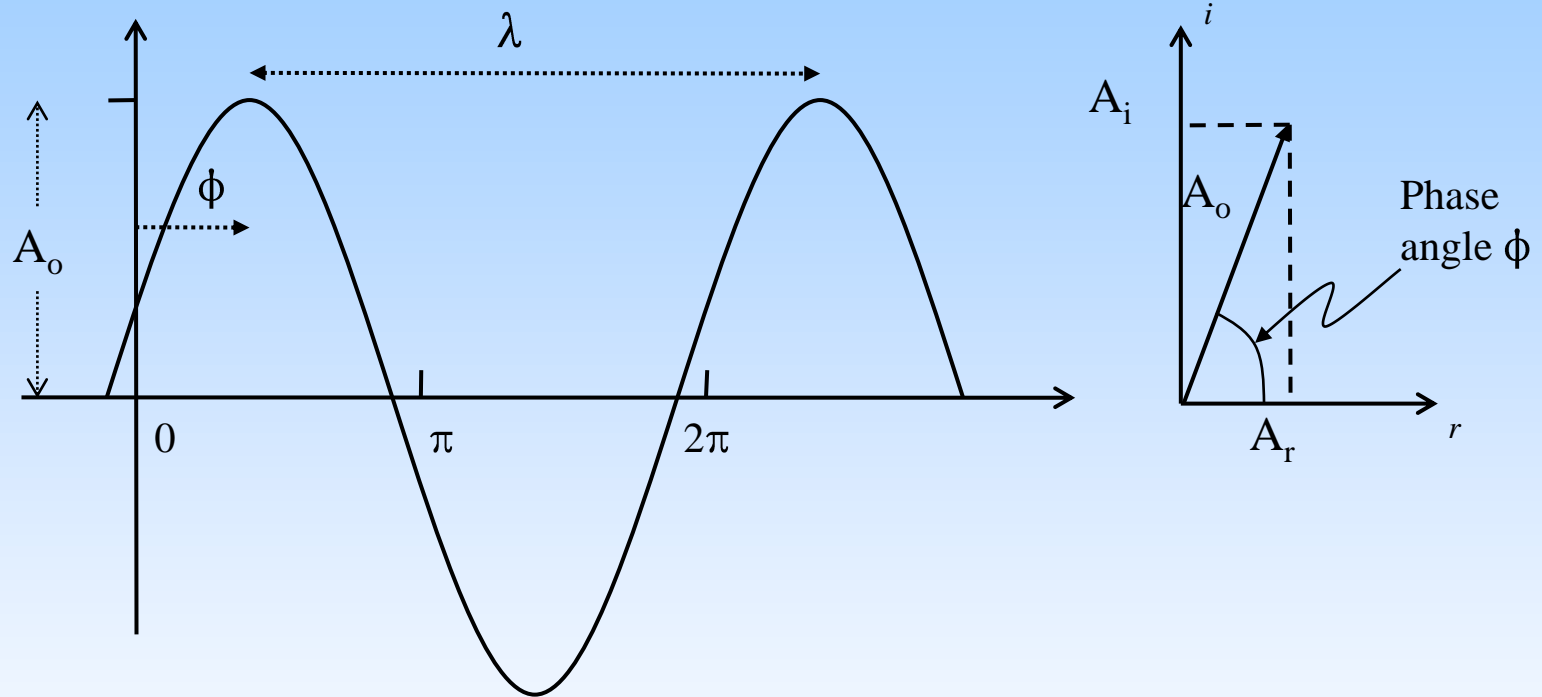
# Here's another (2D) example with an asymmetric motif

Each spot  
represents the  
intensity of  
reflection  
from one set  
of planes  
cutting  
through the  
crystal

Note the  
inversion  
symmetry



**To calculate the structure factor we need to think of wave-like x-rays interacting with atoms. Remember that we can use an x/y graph to represent the phase and amplitude of a wave:**



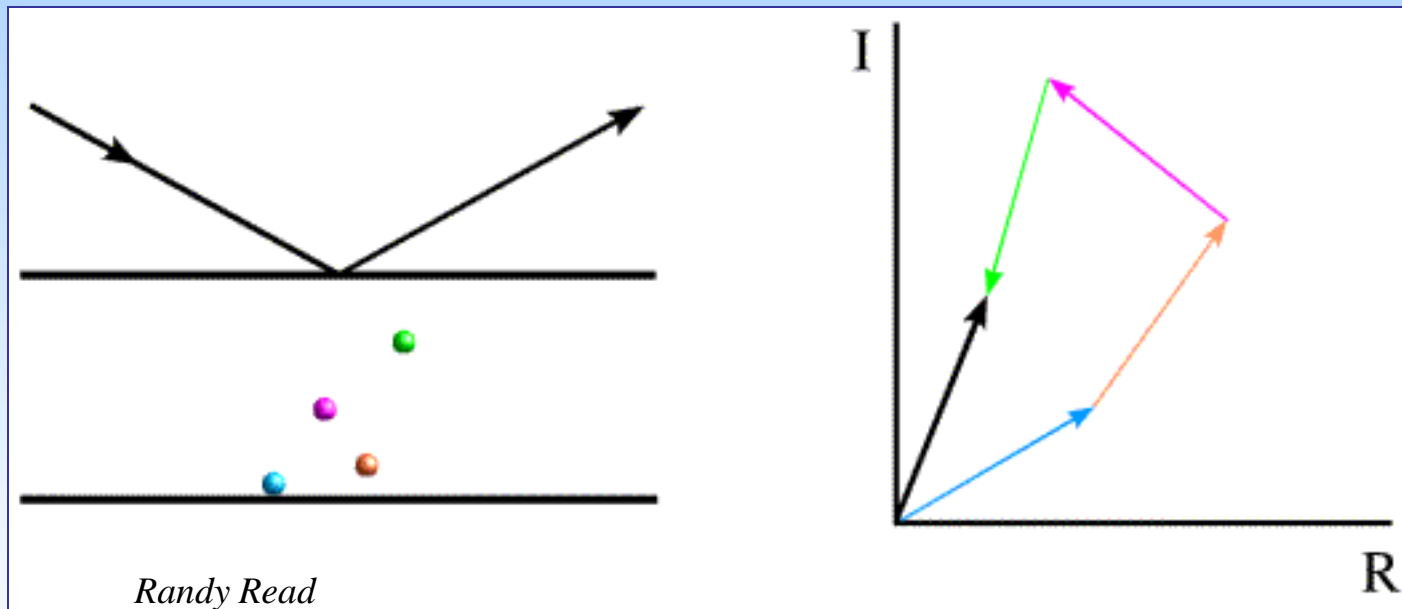
And then we describe the “wave” as a complex number:

$$\mathbf{f} = A_o \{ \cos \phi + i \sin \phi \} \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{f} = A_o e^{i\phi}$$



- The **amplitude** of scattering depends on the number of electrons on each atom.
- The **phase** depends on the fractional distance it lies from the lattice plane.



Scattering from  
lattice planes

Atomic structure factors  
add as **complex numbers**,  
or **vectors**.

# We can write an expression to describe this diffraction from atoms in a crystal

The scattering **amplitude** (the structure factor) for an individual atom is going to be:

Notice that  $\lambda$  and the unit cell parameters are **NOT** part of this.

$$f_{hkl} = f_j \exp[2\pi i(hx_j + ky_j + lz_j)]$$

*The  $hkl$  describe the Bragg Planes*

*The scattering power of the atom,  $\sim$  the number of electrons*

*The  $2\pi$  and the fractional coordinates  $x_j$  take care of the phase angle*

And the **structure factor** for a crystal of atoms will be:

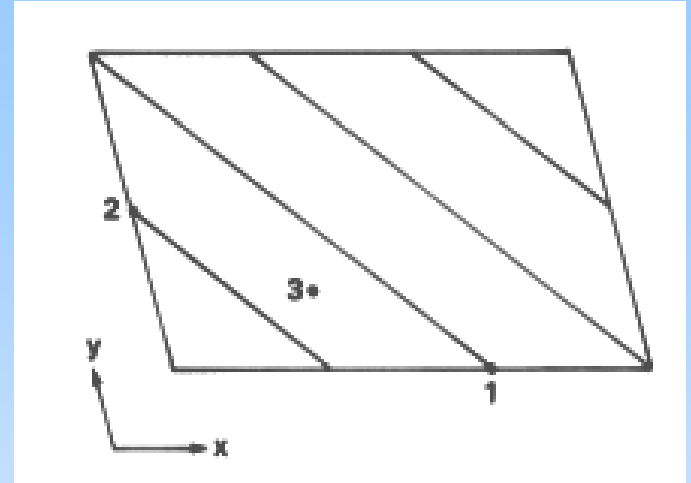
$$F_{hkl} = \sum_{\text{atoms}} f_j \exp[2\pi i(hx_j + ky_j + lz_j)]$$

*The strength of scattering from each atom*

## Does this expression for the Structure Factor make sense?

Try it with an example: a crystal with three atoms. What are the phases of scattering from each atom? Use this

$$f_{hkl} = f_j \exp[2\pi i(hx_j + ky_j + lz_j)]$$



For these planes,  $(h, k) = (3, 2)$

For atom 1.  $x, y = 2/3, 0$ : So  $2\pi(hx + ky) = 2\pi(3 \times 2/3 + 2 \times 0) = 4\pi = 0$

The atom is on the plane, so this makes sense.

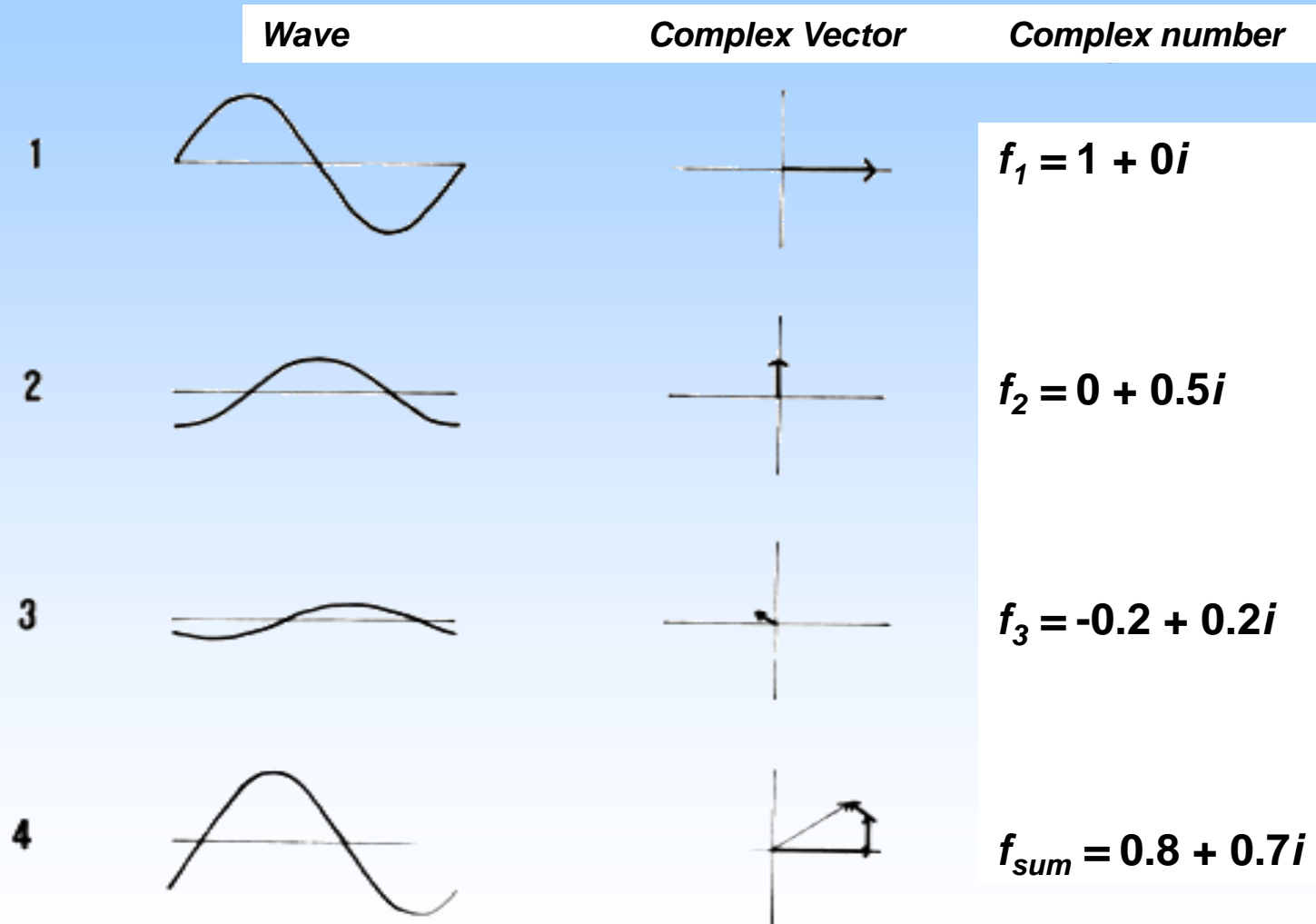
For atom 2.  $x, y = 0, 1/2$ : So  $2\pi(hx + ky) = 2\pi(3 \times 0 + 2 \times 1/2) = 2\pi = 0$

Again, the atom is on the plane, so this makes sense.

For atom 3.  $x, y = 1/3, 1/4$ : So  $2\pi(hx + ky) = 2\pi(3 \times 1/3 + 2 \times 1/4) = 3\pi = \pi$

The atom lies half-way between two planes, so this makes sense.

# We can see how the structure factors from individual atoms add up.



See also:

<http://www.ysbl.york.ac.uk/~cowtan/>

sfapplet/sfintro.html  
fourier/fourier.html

Structure Factor Tutorial  
Book of Fourier

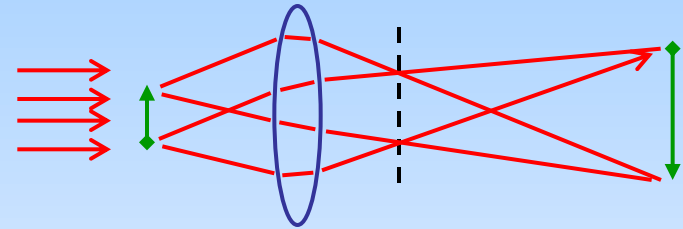


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- Outline the structure-solving methods -- heavy atoms and MADness

**Q:** How do we perform the second interference step in the functioning of the lens -- to **reconstruct the image** of the original object?

**A:** We will have to **calculate** it.



**Q:** How will we represent that object?

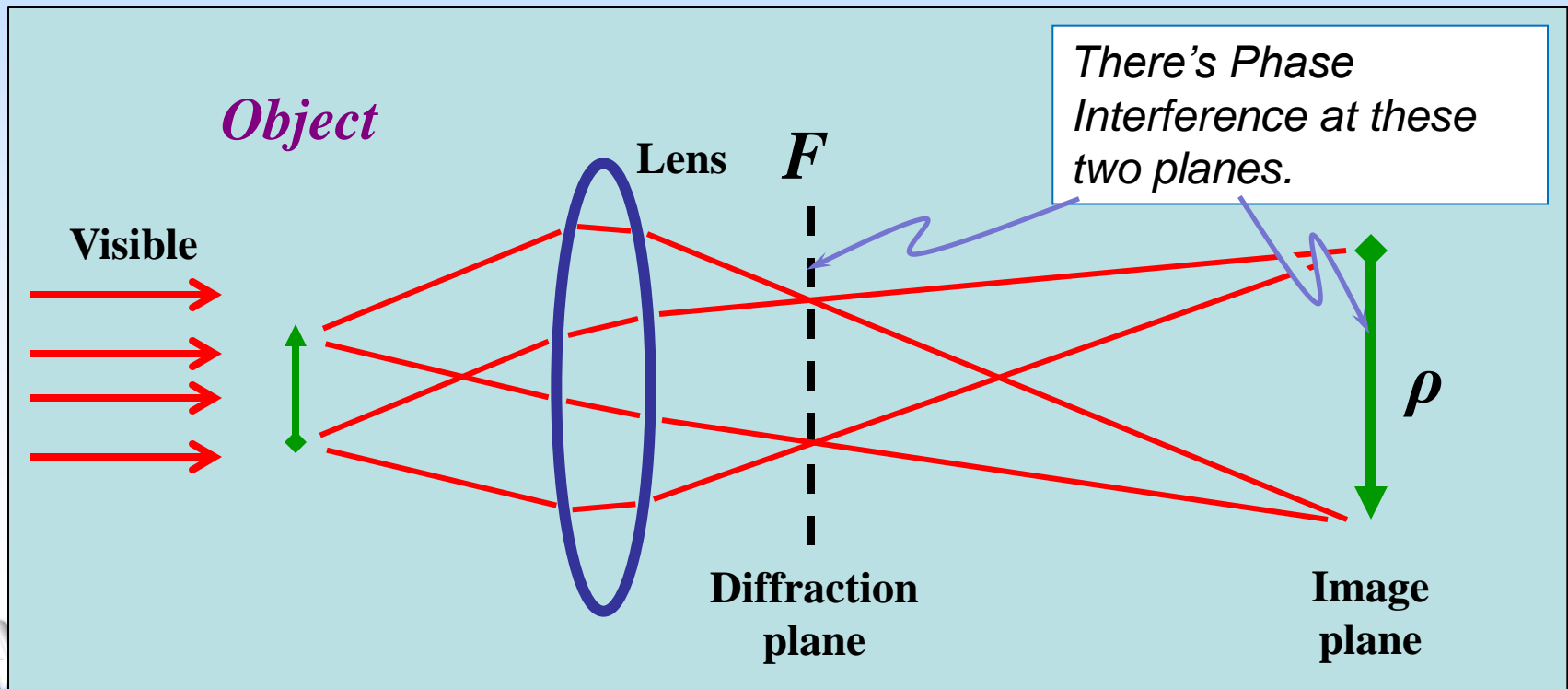
**A:** The **x-rays** are scattered from **electrons** in the atoms of the crystal.

**Therefore:** for us, the “**image**” is going to be a representation of the **electron density**.

# The structure factor and the electron density function are **Fourier** inverses of one another

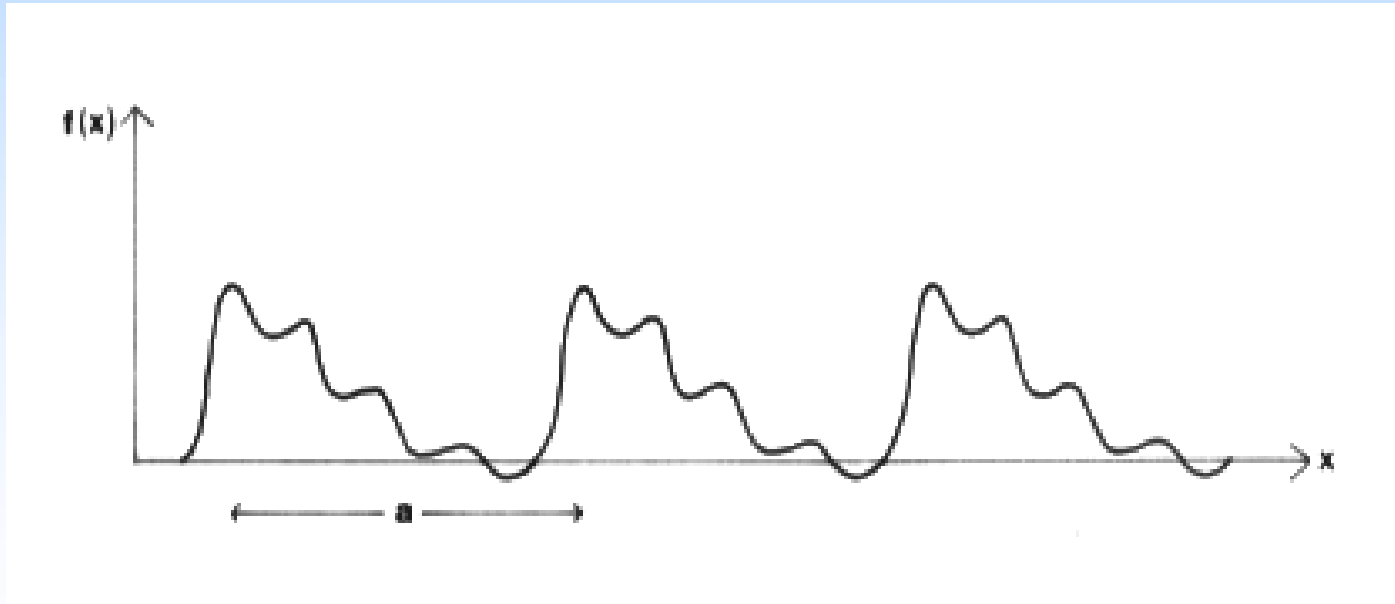
$$F_{hkl} = \int_V \rho(x, y, z) \exp[+2\pi i(hx + ky + lz)] dV$$

$$\rho(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{h=-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_k \sum_l F_{hkl} \exp[-2\pi i(hx + ky + lz)]$$

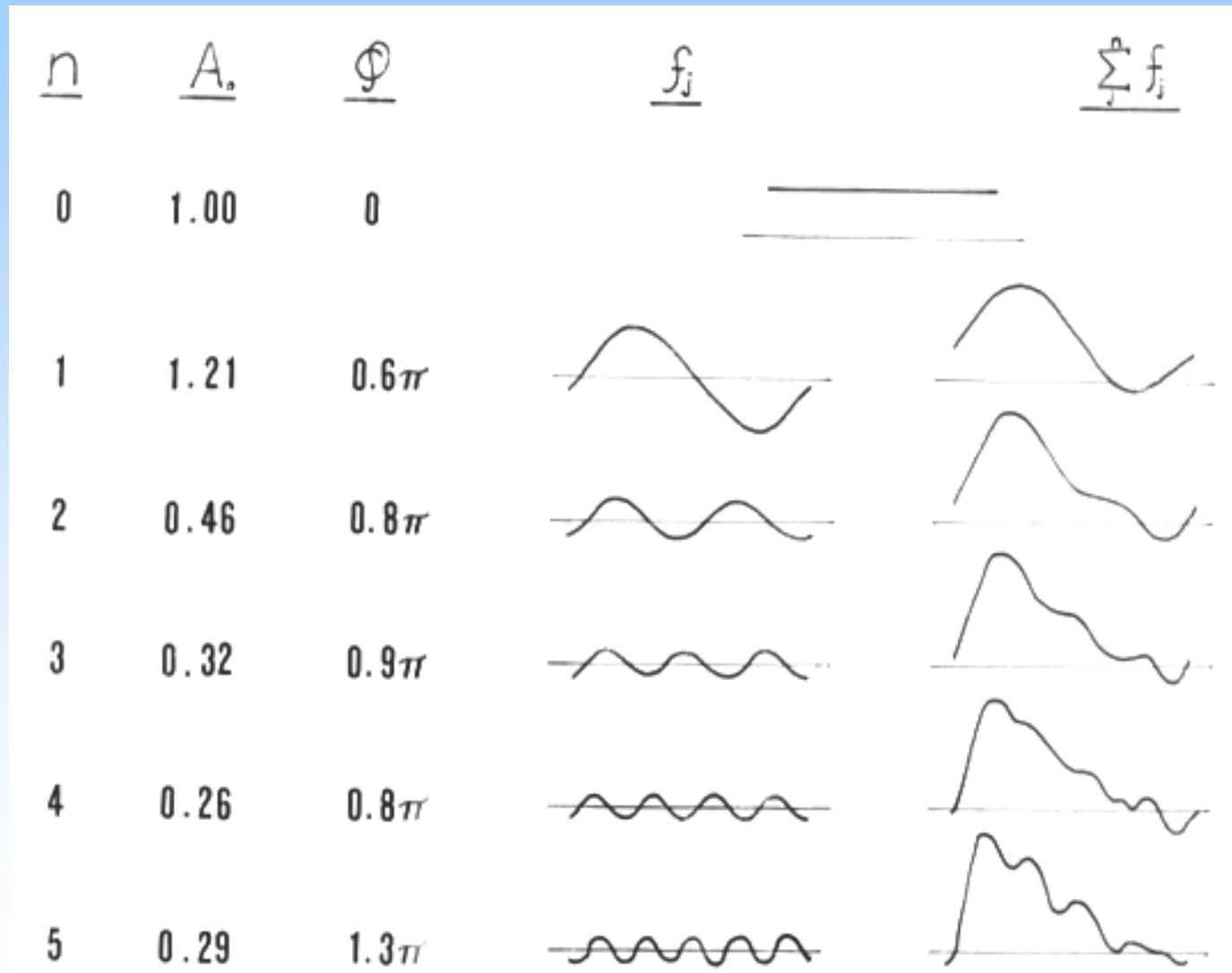


# How does Fourier synthesis work?

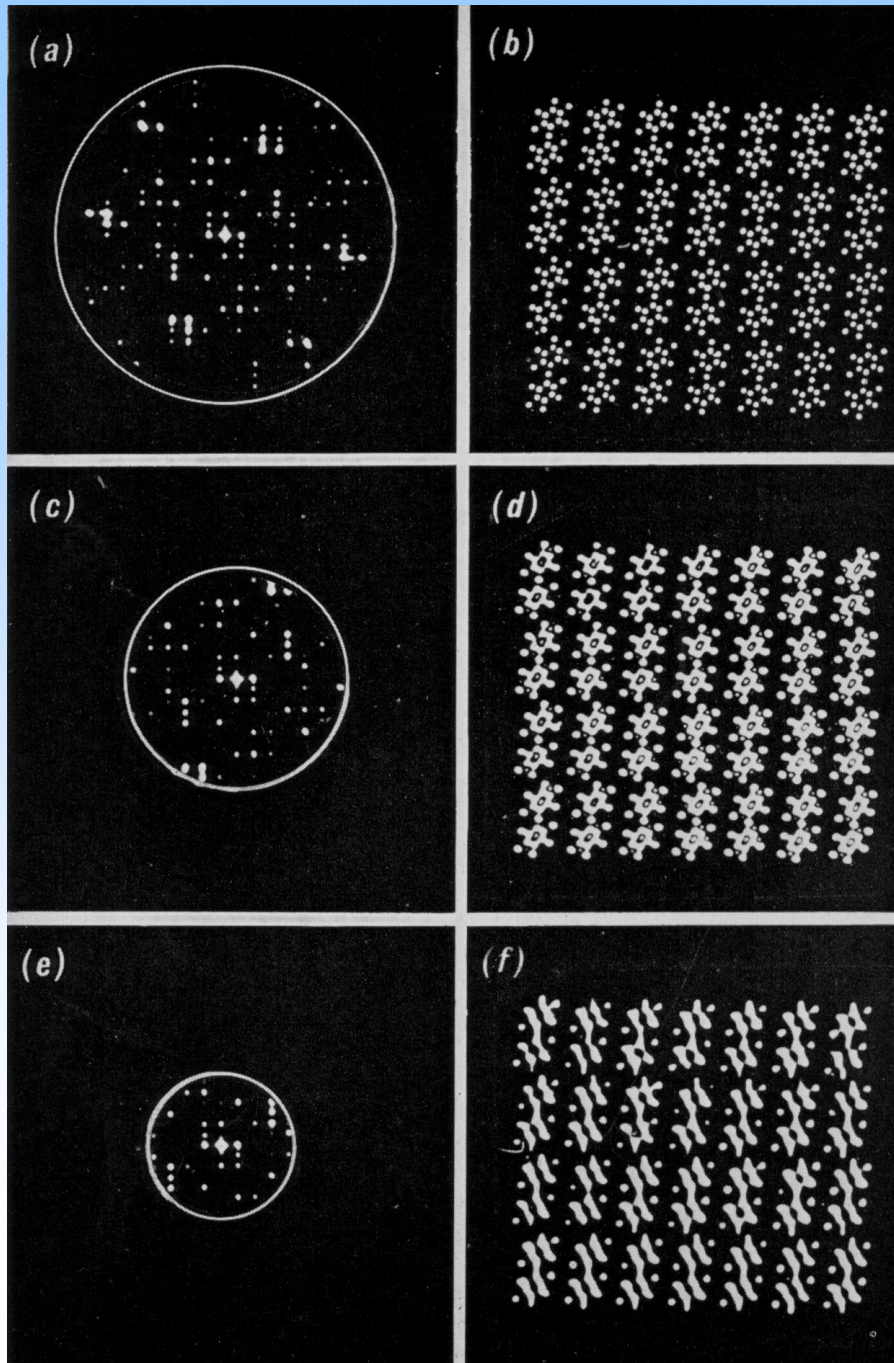
Can we produce a trial structure and see how waves can be summed to give this structure back?



In the **Fourier Synthesis**, just a few waves suffice to give a reasonable approximation to the original pattern







## What is the concept of “resolution?”

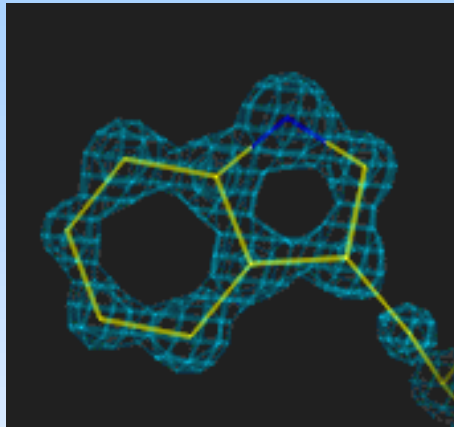
Here is the Fourier synthesis function:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(h) e^{-ihx} dh$$

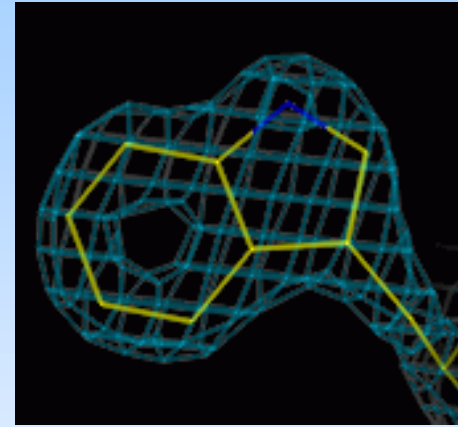
When the limits of the summation are not so great, information is lost in the synthesized structure.

We say that the “**resolution**” equals the d-spacing of the **smallest Bragg planes**.

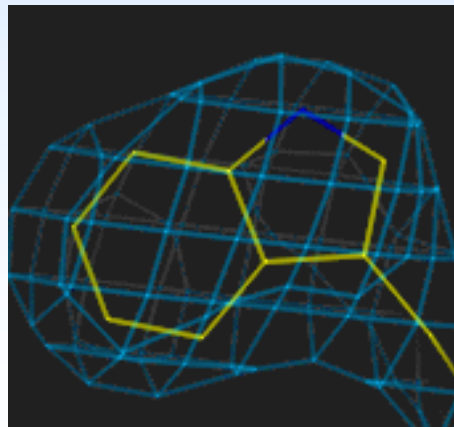
**Resolution:** The d-spacing of the highest order Bragg planes included in the Fourier synthesis. *Small d-spacing is good.*



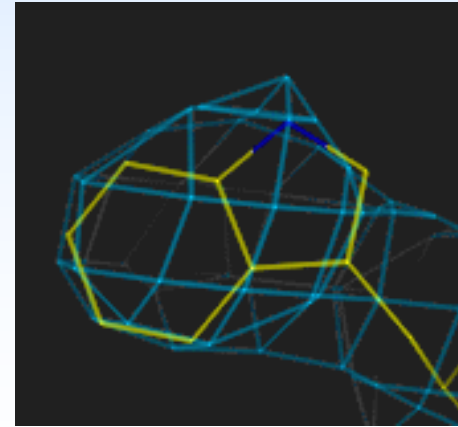
1.0 Å (10,000 refl's)



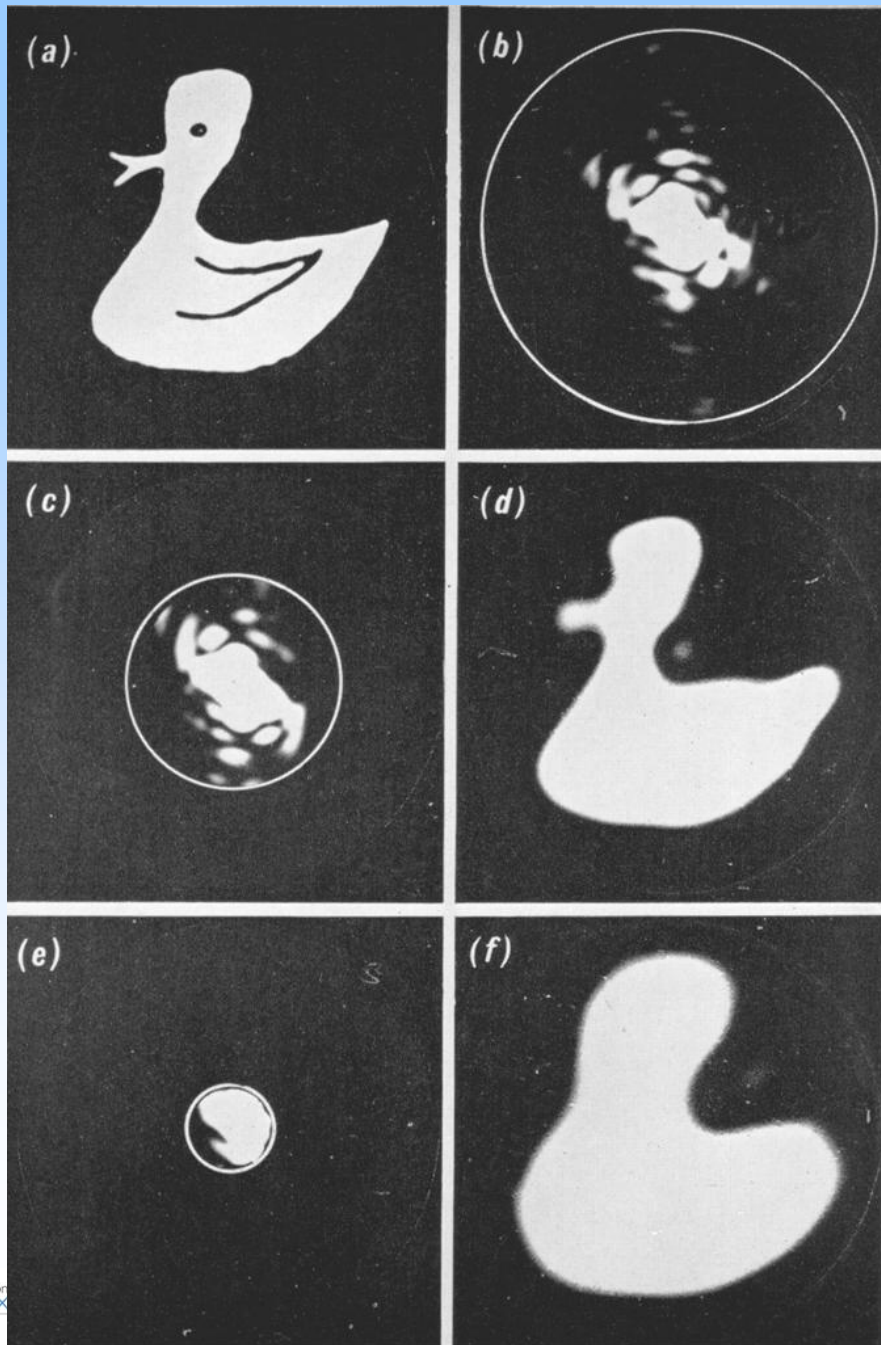
1.8 Å (1700 refl's)



3.0 Å (370 refl's)



4.0 Å (160 refl's)



**Another example.**

The famous Taylor  
and Lipson rubber  
ducky.

# Outline for the Lecture

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- **Describe the importance of symmetry to diffraction**
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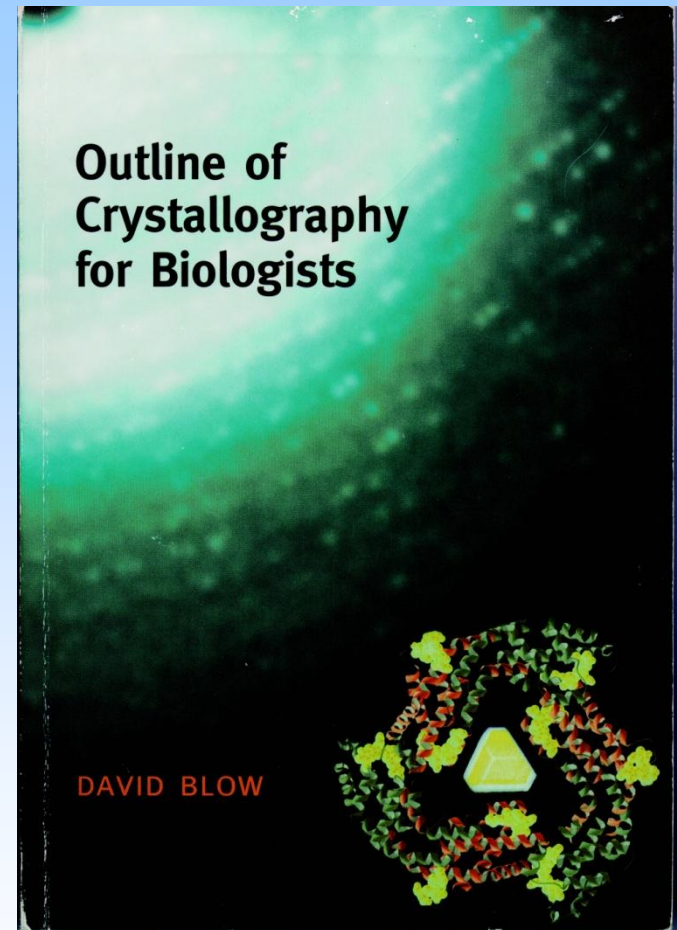


# Symmetry of crystals

We'll take some of our examples from David Blow's book.

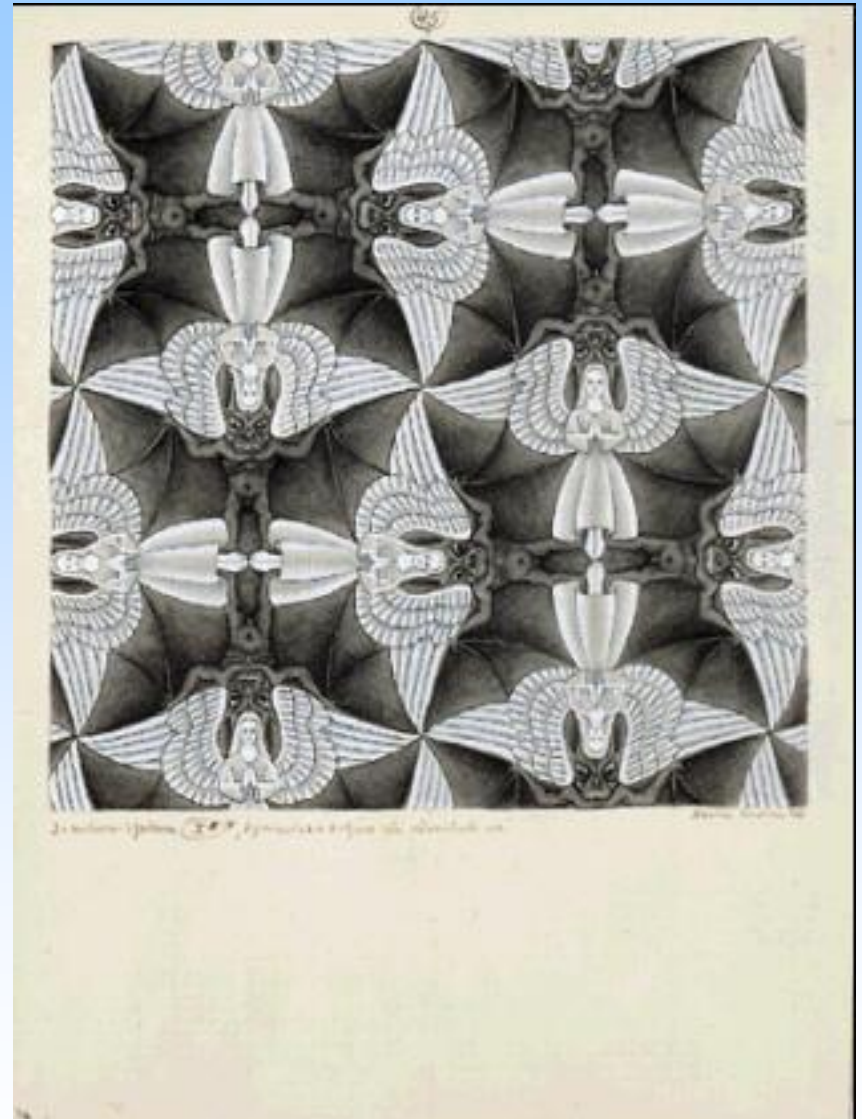
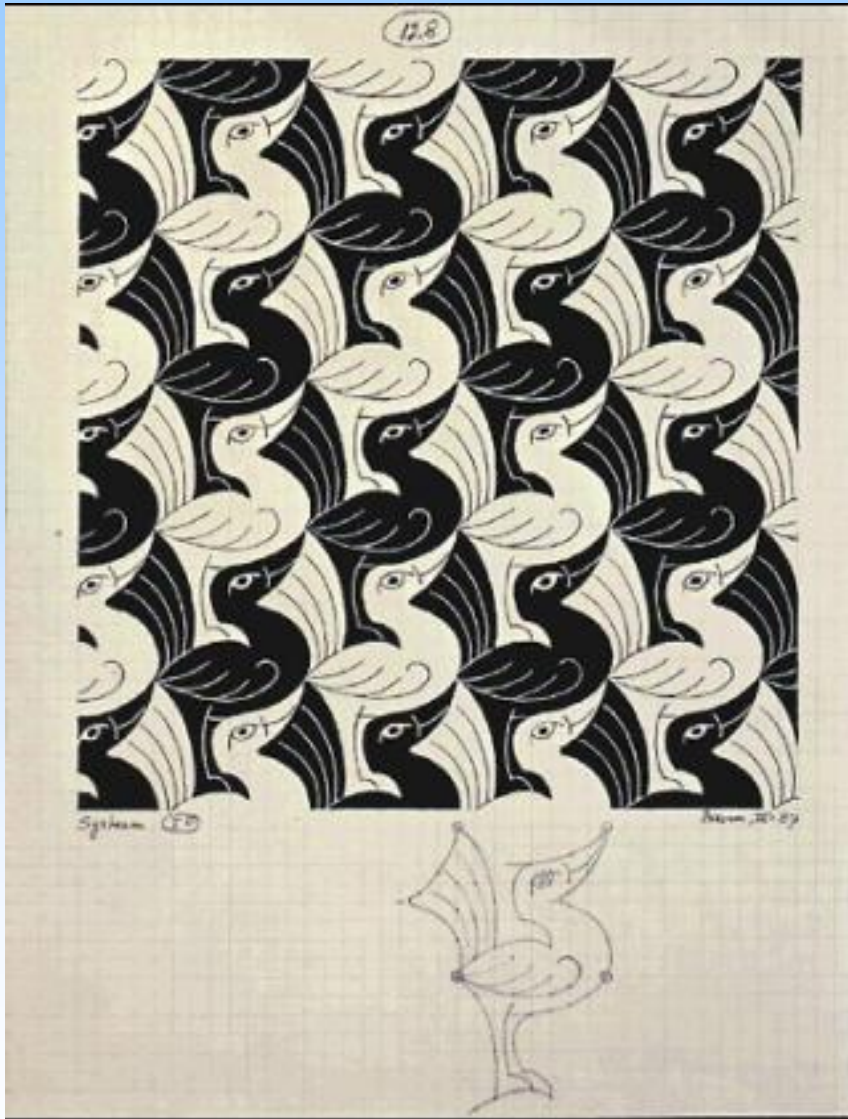
**Symmetry: An operation of rotation, translation, inversion, mirroring, or some combination of these that takes an object back into itself.**

- The simplest symmetry in a crystal is repetition.
- The repeated motif may have its own symmetry.

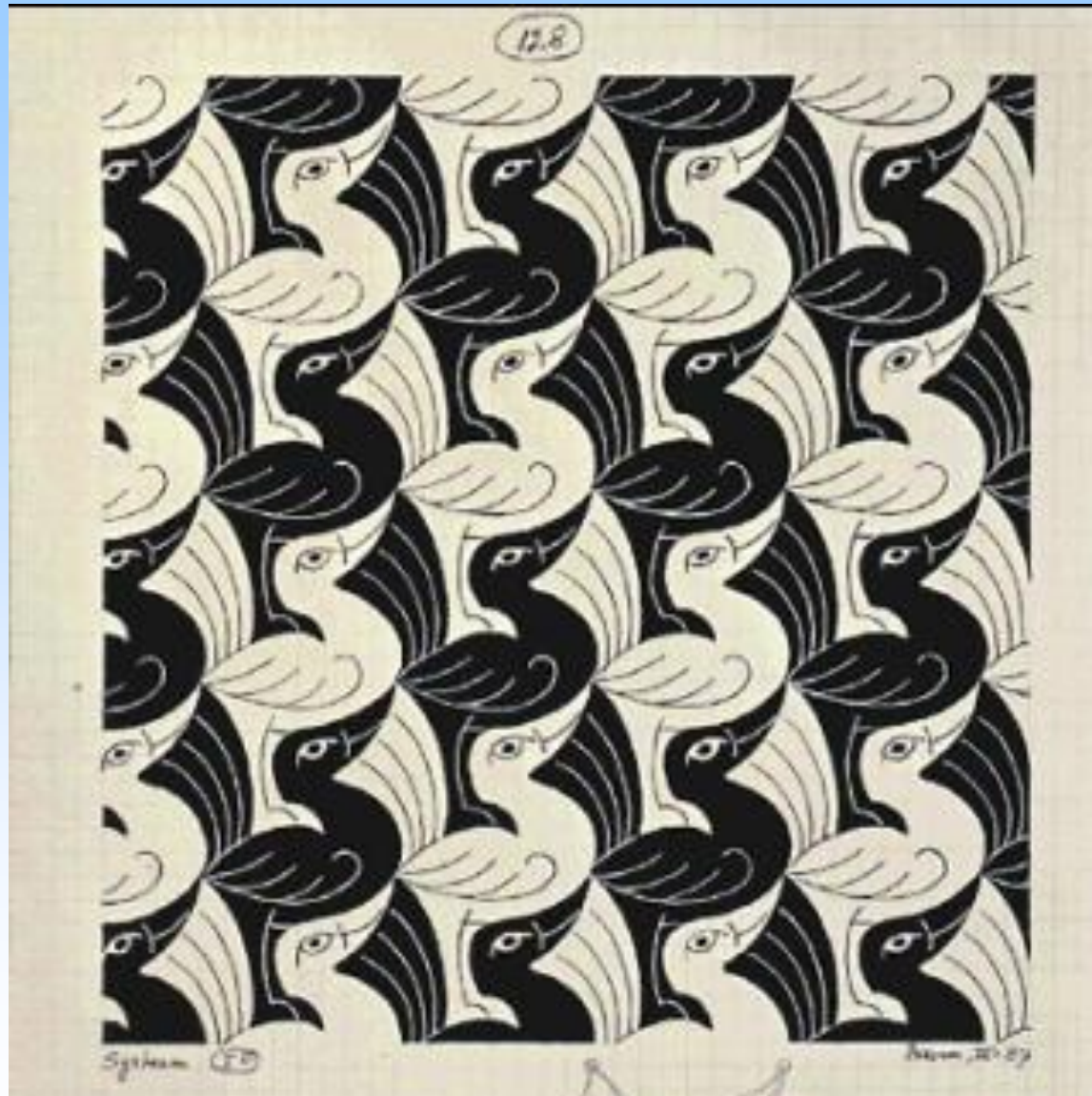




# You know symmetry when you see it!



# Can we identify symmetry elements?

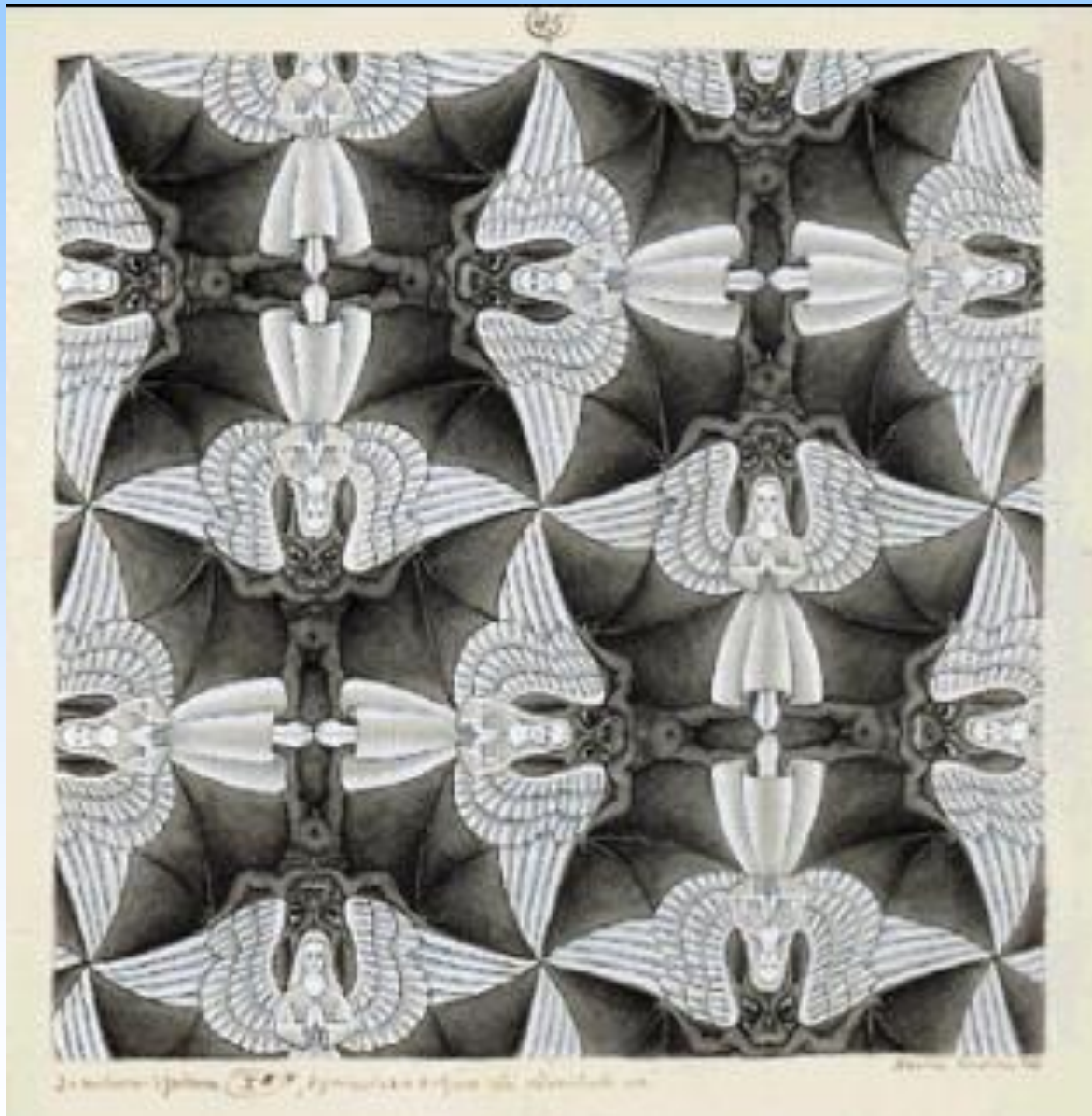




# What about here?



# And here?





And here?

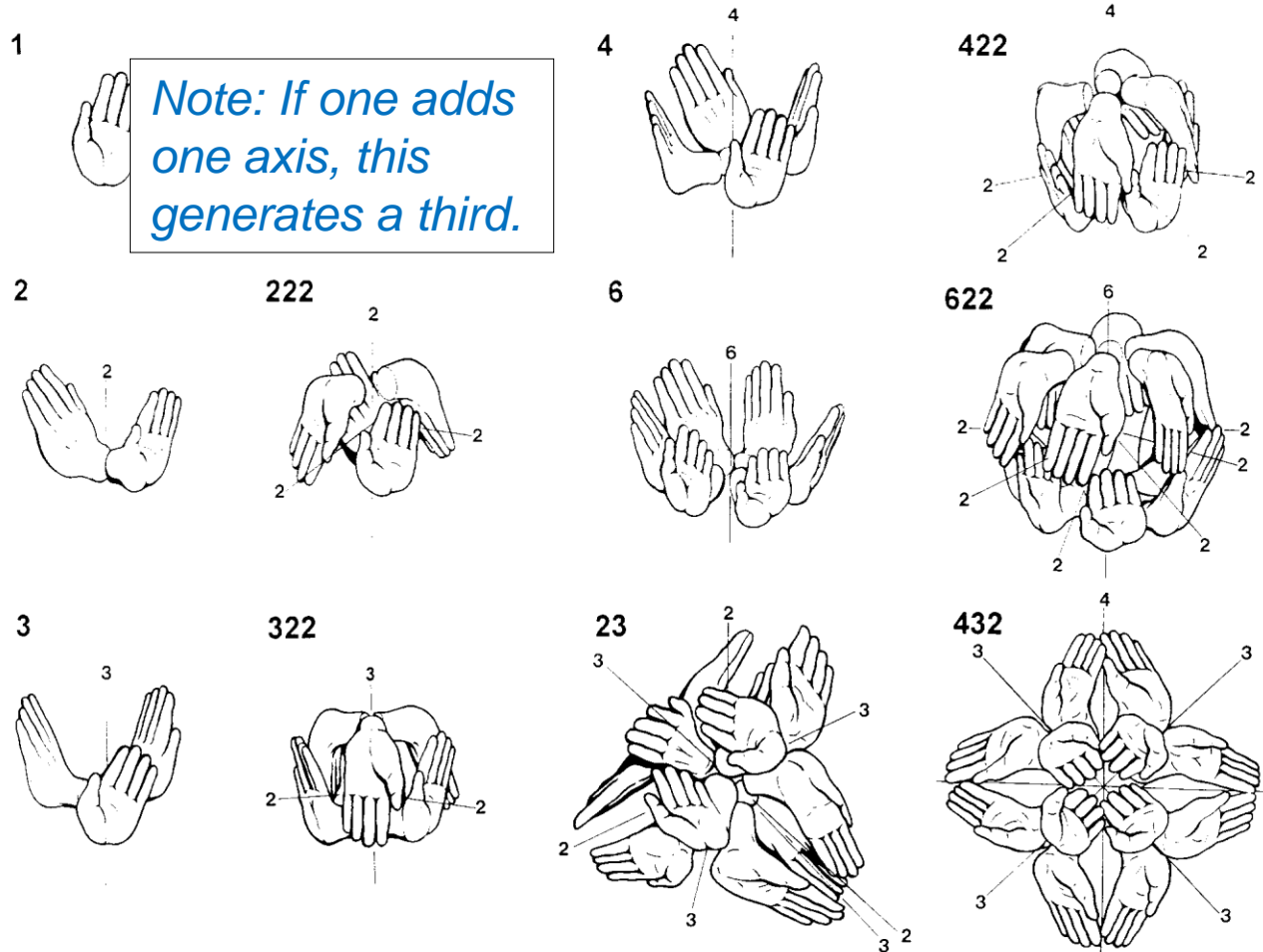




# Symmetry Groups

Biological molecules are all **chiral**, or “handed,” so **only rotation and translation symmetry are permissible**.

Here are the combinations (groups) of symmetries one finds in macromolecular crystals.



**Fig. 2.18** The point groups that can exist in protein crystals.

# What is a Group?

Elements in a group must obey certain properties:

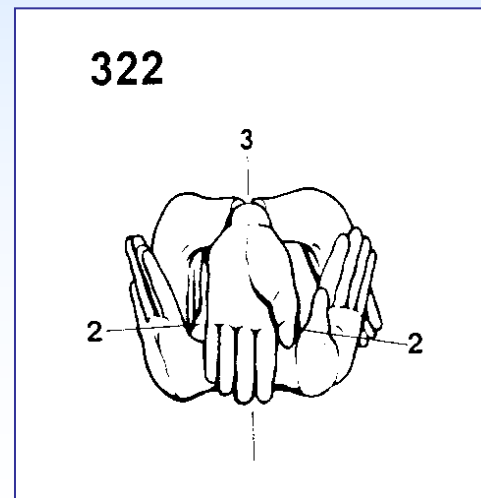
- There must be the *identity* element.
- The combination of any two elements must generate an element of the group. This is called *closure*.
- Number of elements = number of objects repeated = *order* of the group.
- Every element in the group must have an *inverse*.

$$3 \times 3^2 = \mathbf{I}$$

$$3^2 = 3^{-1}$$

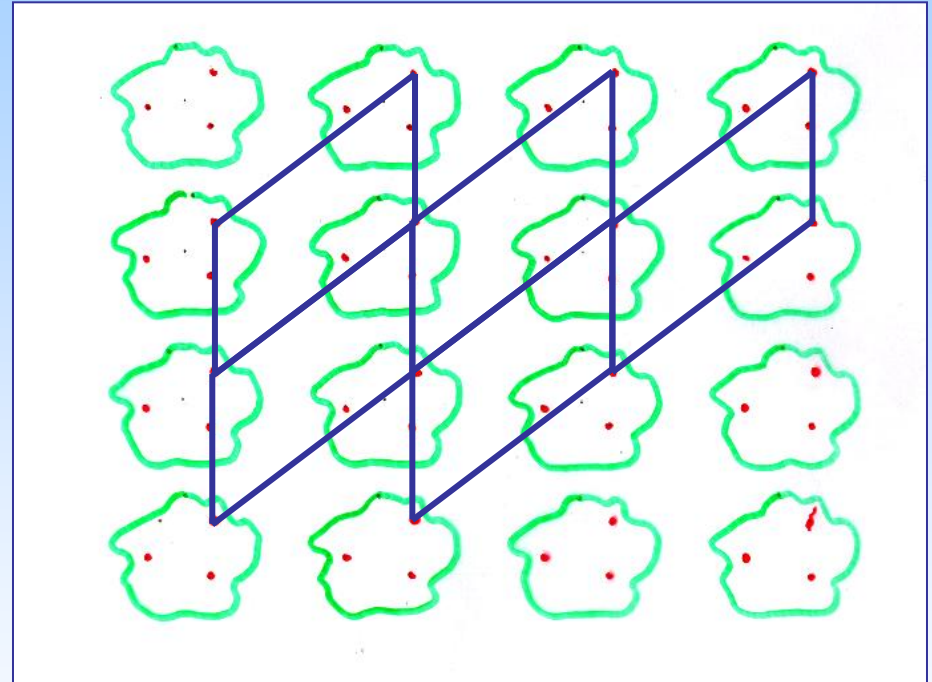
$$3 \times 2 = 2'$$

**Point Group** is **32**



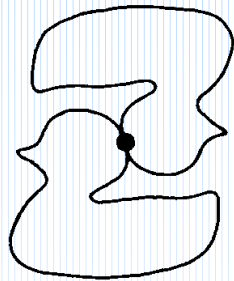
# Simple crystal symmetry

The simplest crystal would contain a single asymmetric object repeated by **translational repetition** only, like our apple orchard.



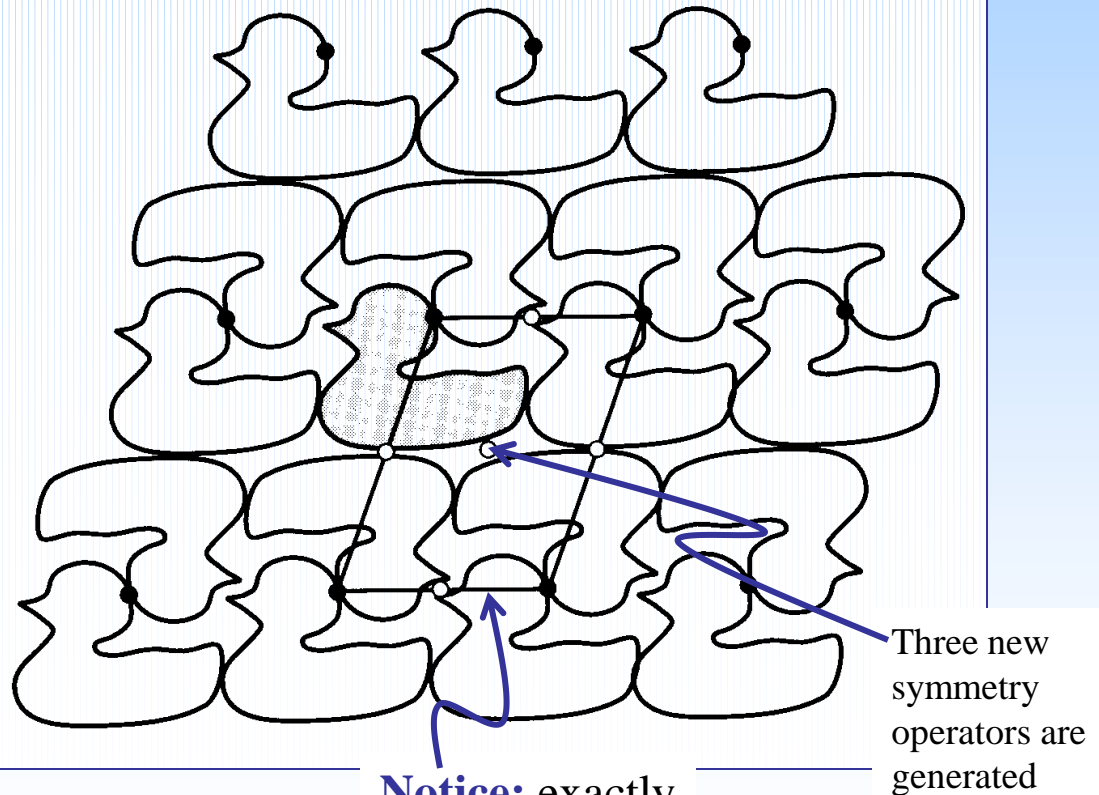
# More complicated crystal symmetry

A crystal could contain a symmetric object, also repeated by translational repetition.



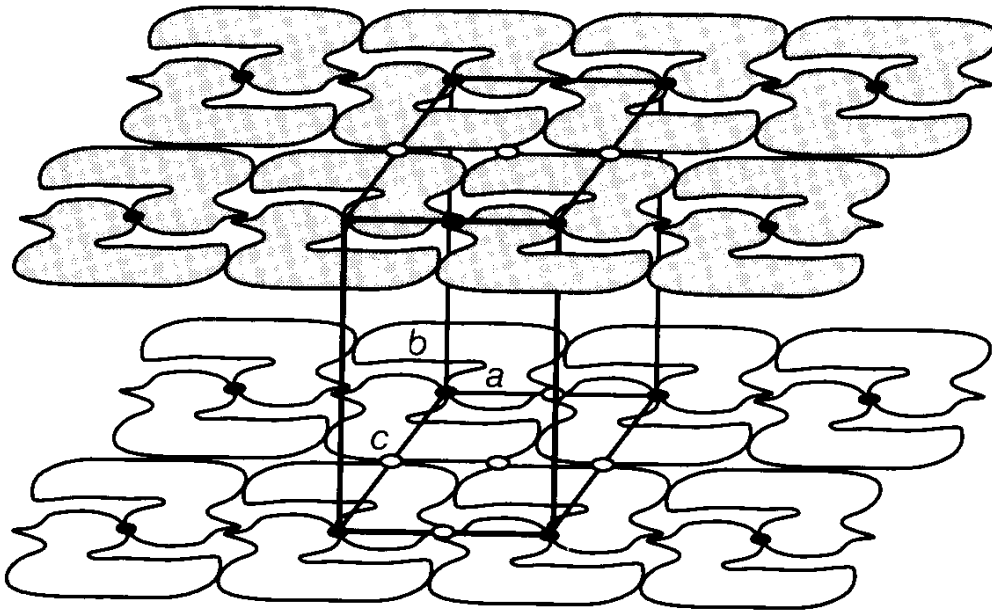
**Fig. 2.35** A symmetrical dimer.

**Fig. 2.36** The smallest unit of the structure that can generate the complete crystal structure by means of its symmetry operations is called the crystal asymmetric unit.

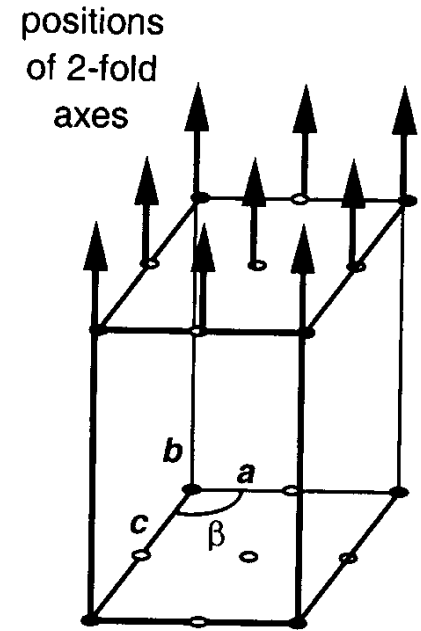


**Notice:** exactly two ducks in the unit cell

# Now let's try it in three dimensions



**Fig. 2.37** Symmetry and equivalent positions in space group P2. A 2-fold axis along **b** creates two asymmetric units in the unit cell. Each unit has four 2-fold axes associated with it, at  $x,z = (0,0)$  (black circles), and at  $(0, 1/2), (1/2, 0), (1/2, 1/2)$  (open circles).



**Fig. 2.38** A unit cell of space group P2.

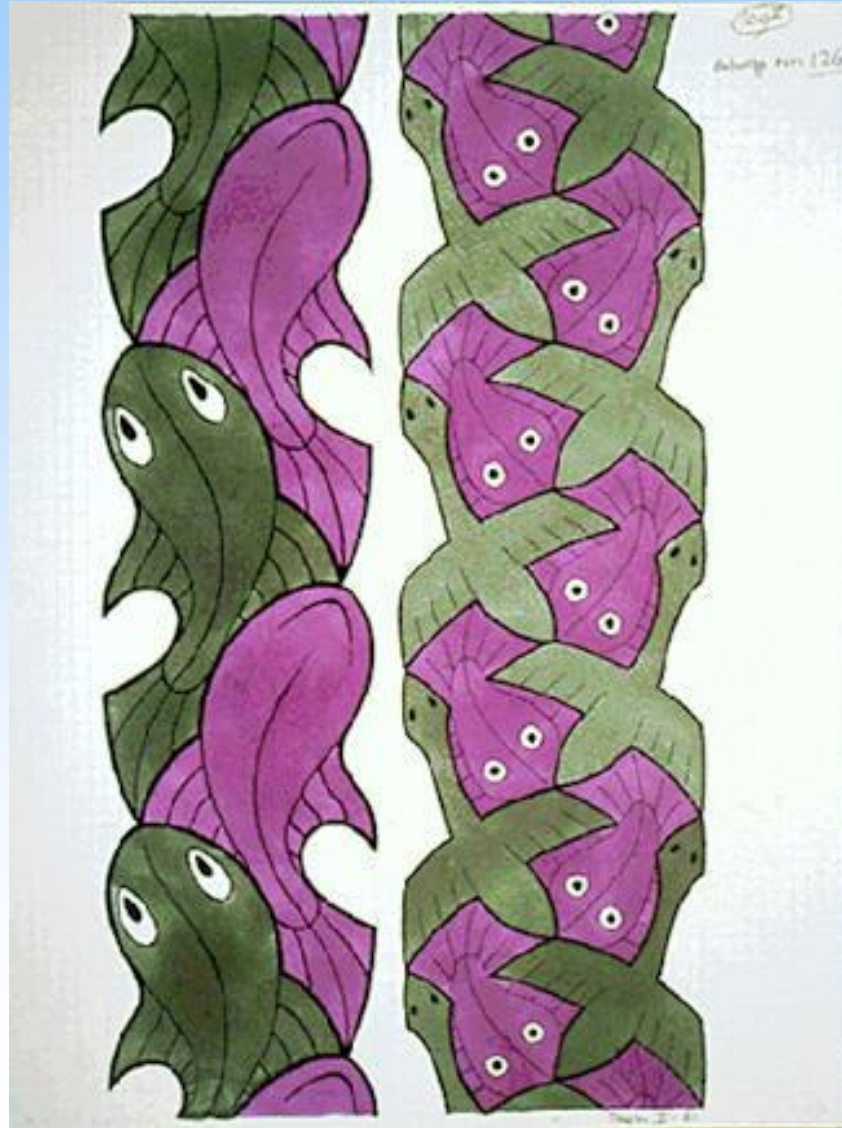
**Space Group P2:** **P** = “primitive,” **2** = two-fold rotation axis.

We call this type of crystal *monoclinic*. *Order* = 2.



# Can we create an operation that combines two simple operations into a compound one?

*Rotation  
then  
translation  
is a screw  
axis.*



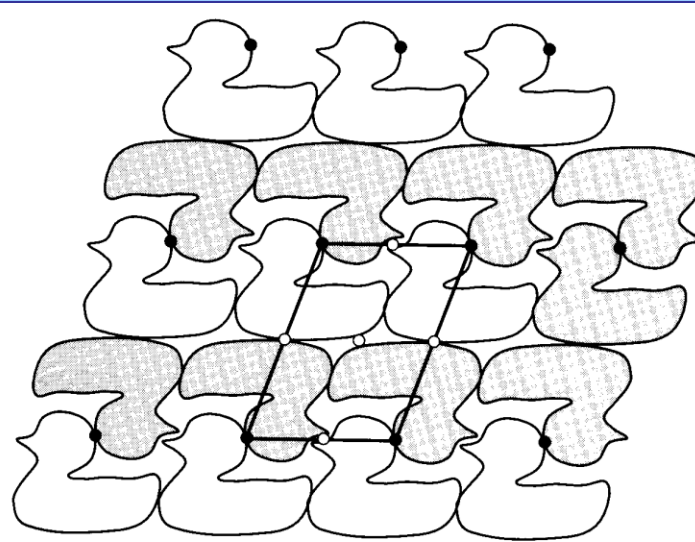
*Mirroring  
then  
translation  
is a glide  
plane.*

# The Screw Axis

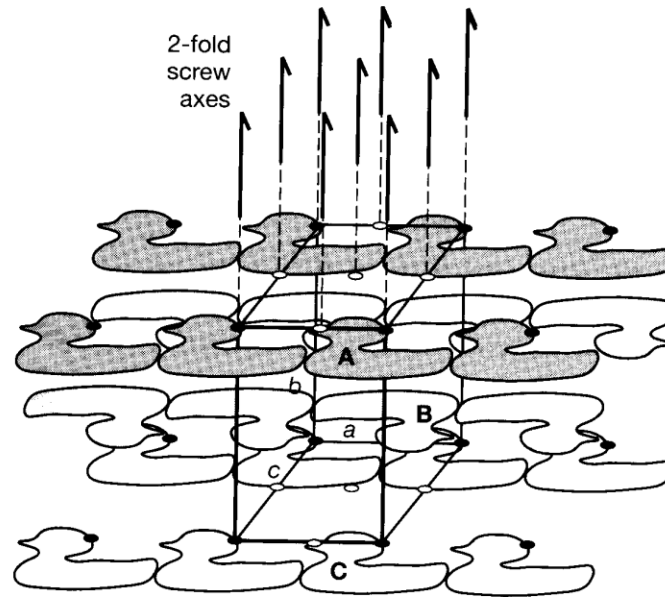
This symmetry operation is an **m-fold rotation** followed by a translation.

The translation is a **n/m** translation along one of the major crystallographic directions, where **m** is the order of the major rotation axis: the **m<sub>n</sub>** screw axis.

Here, it's written **2<sub>1</sub>** to represent the **two-fold screw axis**, and the translation is **1/2**.



**Fig. 2.43** A P<sub>2</sub><sub>1</sub> structure viewed down the *b* direction. The unshaded molecules are at *y* = 0, and the shaded molecules at *y* = 1/2. There are 2-fold screw axes at the corners of the unit cell, and also at positions indicated by white circles.



**Fig. 2.44** Arrangement of units in a P<sub>2</sub><sub>1</sub> lattice. Units facing one way are at the top and bottom of the cell, those facing the other are halfway in between. Objects A, B, and C are related by a 2-fold screw operation.

# Centered Lattice

To make a new *monoclinic* lattice, **shift** the motif at the origin along a diagonal to a new spot by a **major fraction of the unit cell edges**.

The lattice is “centered” because a new motif appears in the center of a face or of the body of the unit cell.

When P2 is “centered” to form C2, new **2<sub>1</sub>** axes are formed.

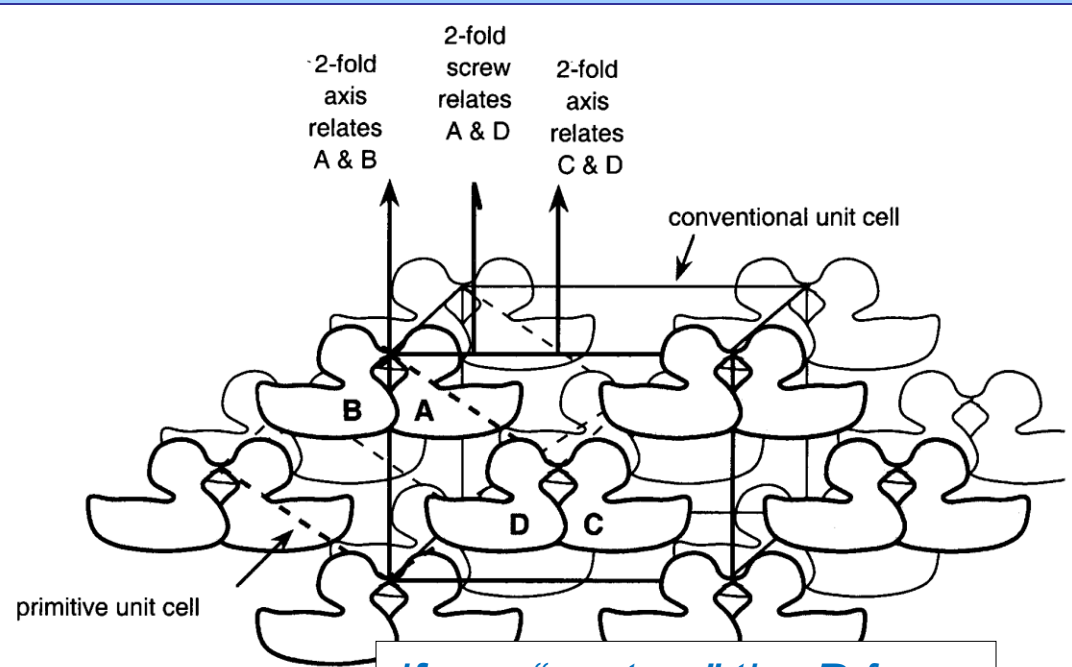


Fig. 2.39 A C-face centred monoclinic

*If one “centers” the B face, one simply generates a new P2 unit cell.*

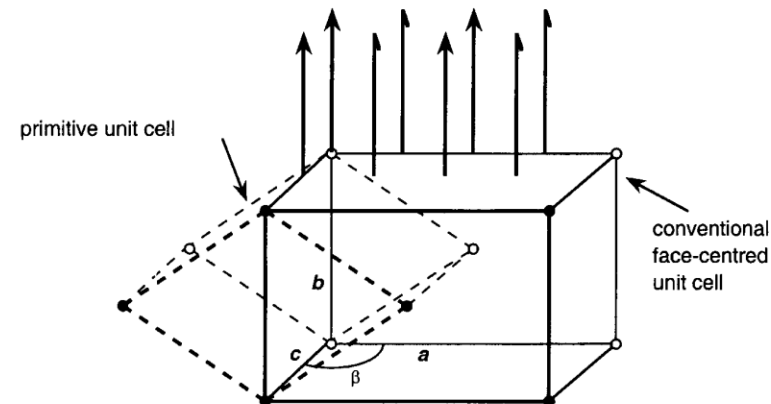
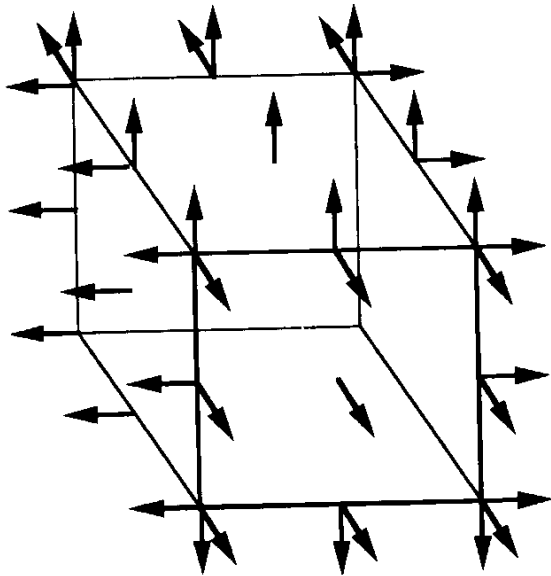


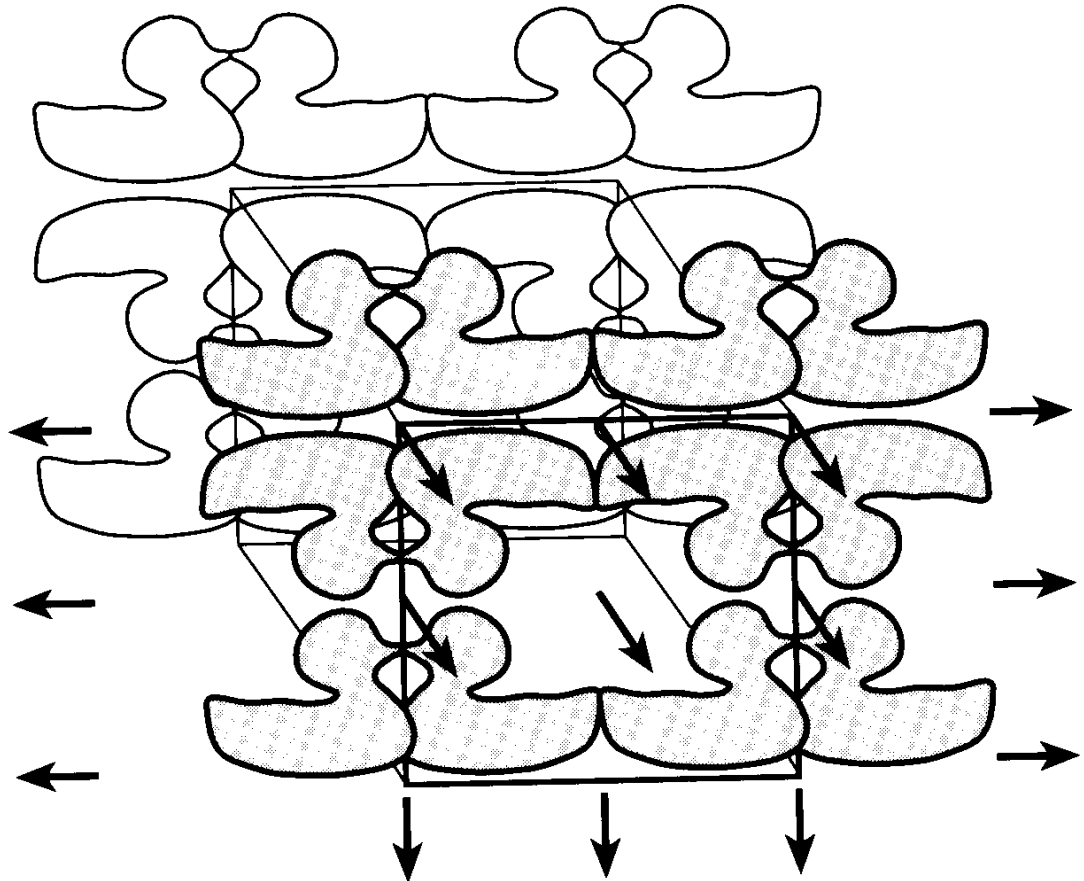
Fig. 2.40 Summary of the symmetry of a C2 lattice. Screw axes are identified by single-barbed arrows.

# And higher symmetry

If one has **two-fold axes in more than one direction**, it must be **three** directions, and the axes must be perpendicular. We call this **orthorhombic**.



**Fig. 2.41** P222 has intersecting sets of 2-fold axes in three perpendicular directions.

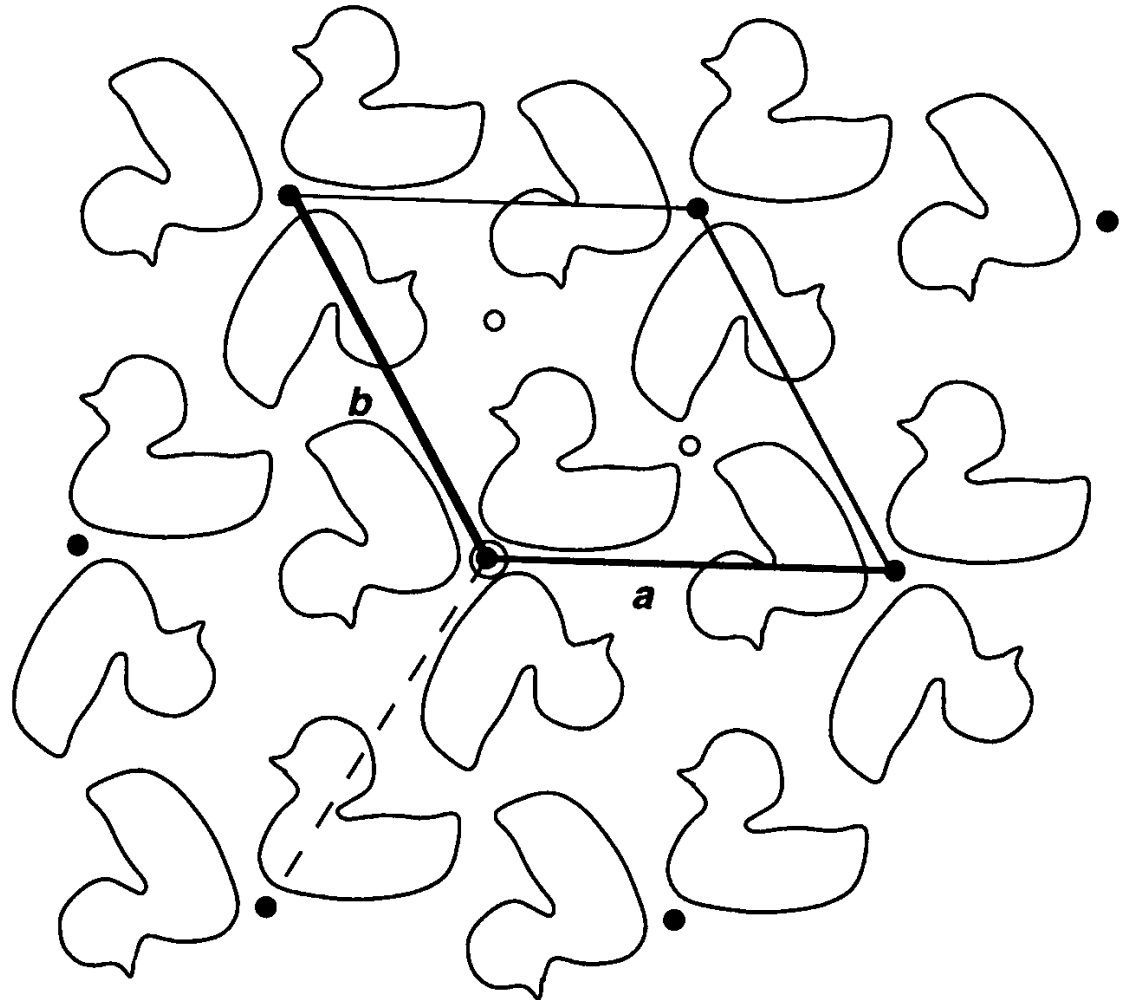


**Fig. 2.42** Molecular arrangement in space group P222, showing just a few of the 2-fold axes.

# And finally ...

A **three-fold** axis will produce a **trigonal** crystal.  
Notice how the first three-fold axis creates two other three-folds with different environments.

**Fig. 2.28** If there is 3-fold symmetry, the lattice is generated by two lattice translations which make an angle of  $120^\circ$  and are of equal length. When objects are arranged with 3-fold symmetry about the lattice points, two other types of 3-fold symmetry axis are generated, indicated within the outlined cell.





# The **Seven** Crystal Systems

The combination of symmetry elements yields only these forms

| Crystal System | Bravais Types | External Minimum Symmetry | Unit Cell Properties |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|

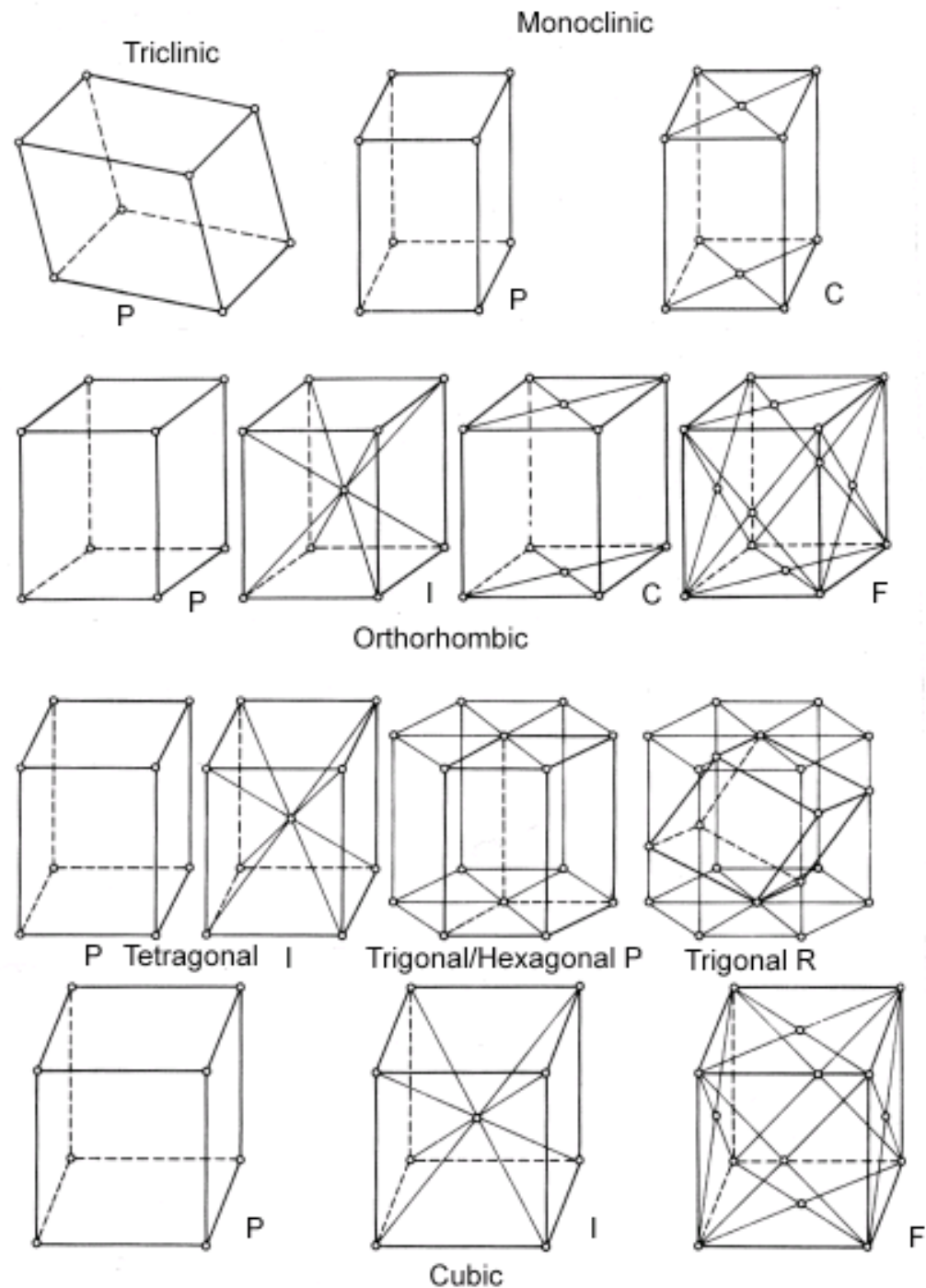
|              |            |  |  |
|--------------|------------|--|--|
| Triclinic    | P          | None                                   | a, b, c, $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , $\gamma$ , |
| Monoclinic   | P, C       | One 2-fold axis, parallel b (b unique) | a, b, c, 90, $\beta$ , 90                |
| Orthorhombic | P, I, F, C | Three perpendicular 2-folds            | a, b, c, 90, 90, 90                      |
| Tetragonal   | P, I       | One 4-fold axis, parallel c            | a, a, c, 90, 90, 90                      |
| Trigonal     | P*, R      | One 3-fold axis                        | a, a, c, 90, 90, 120                     |
| Hexagonal    | P*         | One 6-fold axis                        | a, a, c, 90, 90, 120                     |
| Cubic        | P, F, I    | Four 3-folds along space diagonal      | a, a, a, 90, 90, 90                      |

\* Note:  $P(\text{hexagonal}) = P(\text{trigonal})$

# The Bravais Lattices

Here are the **14** ways crystal lattices can be formed in the seven crystal systems.

The international convention in displaying these is to give **a** down, **b** across, and **c** up or towards the viewer.

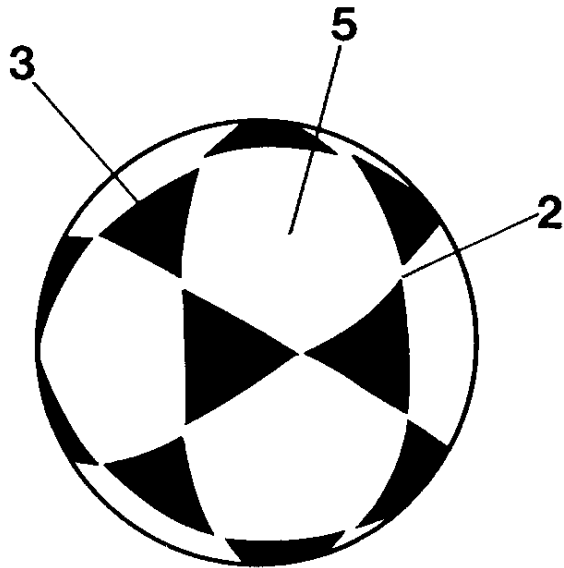


# How many space groups?

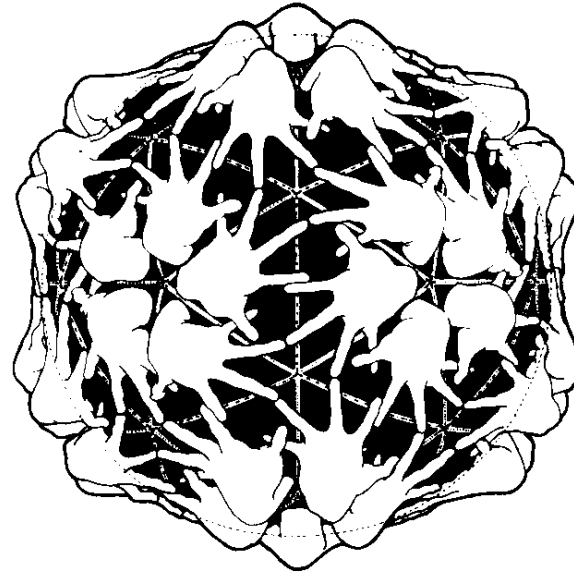
- There are **230 space groups** possible
- Only 65 of these employ **only** rotational symmetry  
**(suitable for chiral molecules)**
- Here are the most abundant observed in **macromolecular** structures, 65% of the total:

| Space group symbol  | % of total |
|---------------------|------------|
| $P2_12_12_1$        | 24.2       |
| $P3_221$ & $P3_121$ | 15.2       |
| $P2_1$              | 13.8       |
| $C2$                | 6.1        |
| $P4_32_12$          | 5.4        |

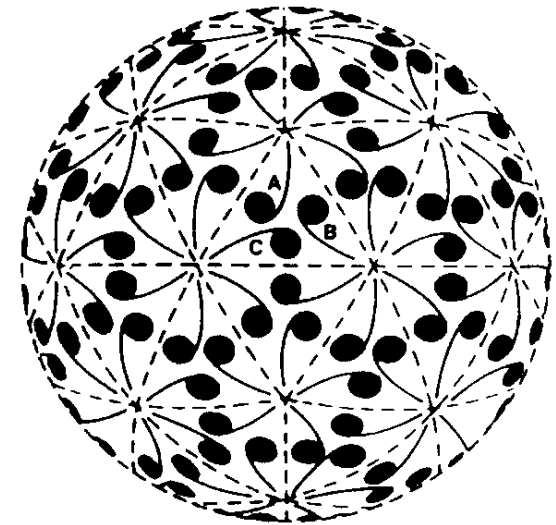
# And finally the icosahedral symmetry of spherical viruses



**Fig. 2.19** Footballs are often decorated in a way that shows 532 symmetry.



**Fig. 2.20** Fanciful drawing of left hands arranged in 532 symmetry by Don Caspar (reproduced from Caspar (1980) by permission of the Biophysical Society).



**Fig. 2.21** Pseudo-symmetrical arrangement of 180 units (reproduced from Harrison (1980) by permission of the Biophysical Society).

# How does symmetry affect a diffraction pattern?

Symmetry affects a diffraction pattern in at least three ways:

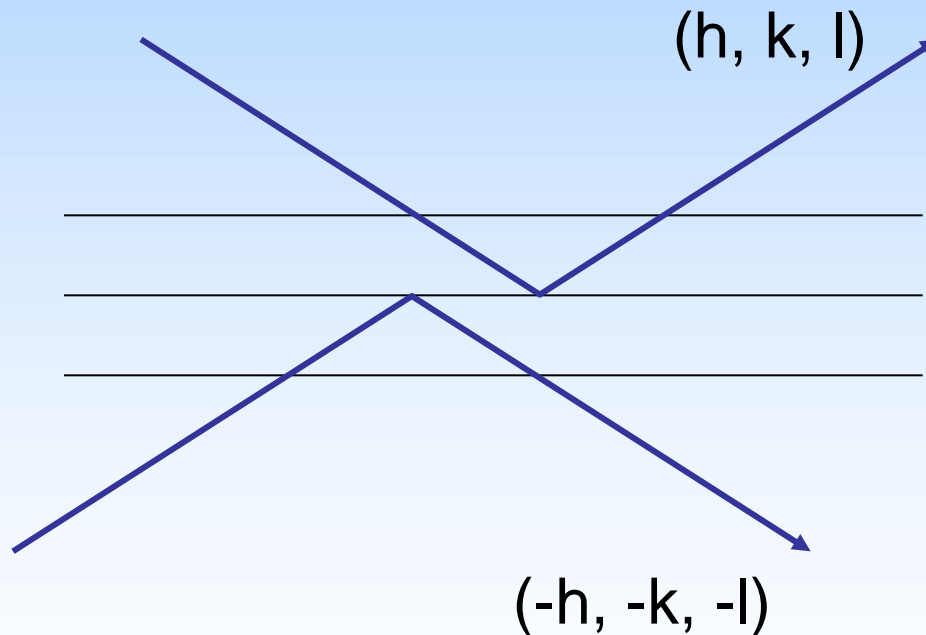
**Friedel's Law** – There's an inversion centre in reciprocal space.

**Laue Point Group** – Diffraction has symmetry like that of the crystal.

**Systematic absences** – some of the symmetry operations erase some reflections.



**Friedel's Law:** Bragg reflection from the front of the planes is the same as from the back.



We can do this algebraically

Friedel's Law: Intensity is the same  
for  $(hkl)$  and  $(\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l})$

$$F_{\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}} = \sum_{\text{atoms}} f_j \exp[2\pi i(-hx_j - ky_j - lz_j)]$$

$$= \sum f_j \exp(-2\pi i \underline{h} \cdot \underline{r}_j)$$

$$= \sum f_j [\cos(-2\pi \underline{h} \cdot \underline{r}_j) + i \cdot \sin(-2\pi \underline{h} \cdot \underline{r}_j)]$$

$$= \sum f_j [\cos(2\pi \underline{h} \cdot \underline{r}_j) - i \cdot \sin(2\pi \underline{h} \cdot \underline{r}_j)]$$

$$= F_{hkl}^*$$

Do you know abt. complex conjugates?

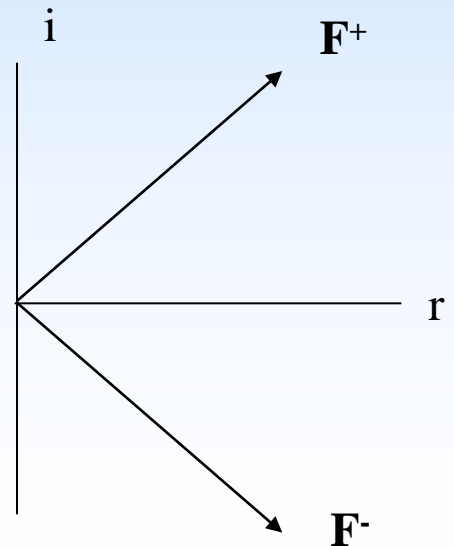
$$\text{For } F = A + iB$$

$$F^* = A - iB$$

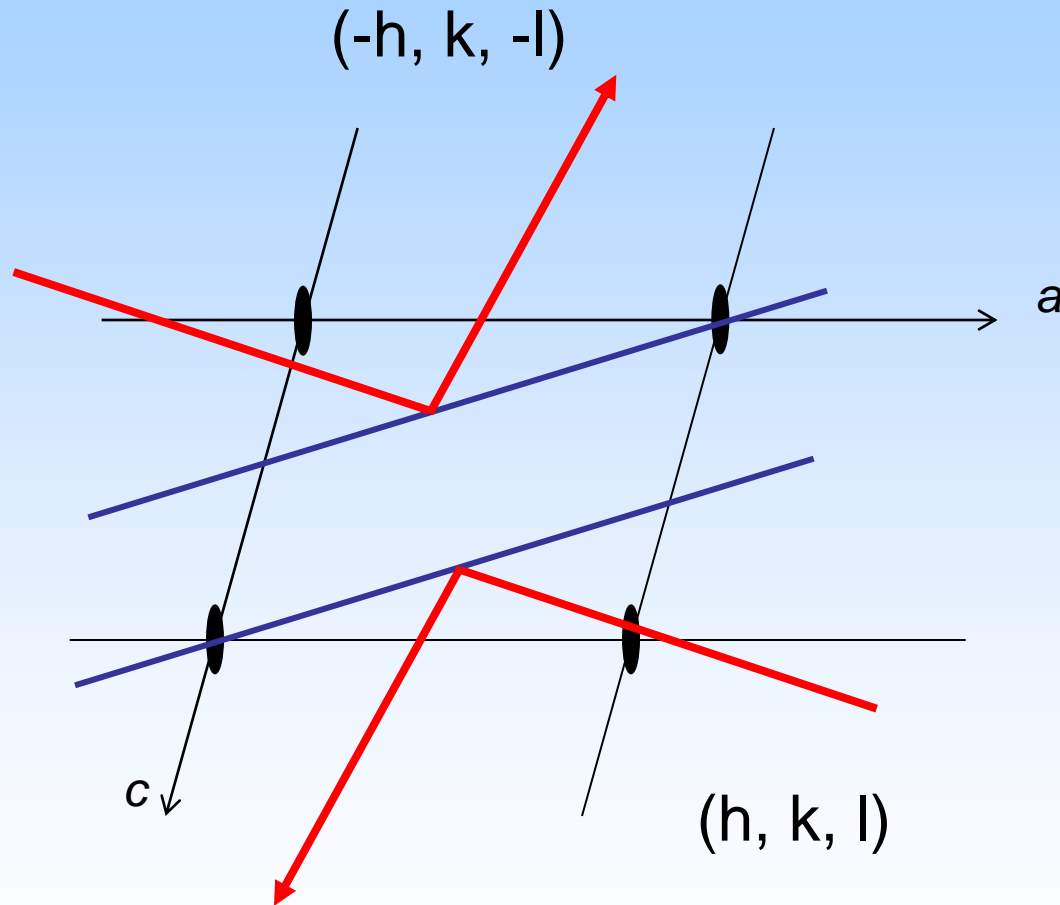
$$\text{and } |F| = (F \cdot F^*)^{1/2} = (A^2 + B^2)^{1/2}$$

$$\text{Therefore } |F_{hkl}| = |F_{\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}}|:$$

Friedel's Law



**Laue Point Group:** The diffraction will adopt some of the symmetry of the crystal.



Let's say the  
 $(1, 5, 2)$  and  
the  $(-1, 5 -2)$

The **Laue Point Group** for a crystal is the rotational or mirror symmetry of the space group, plus Friedel's Law. For example:

$$\mathbf{P2} \text{ or } \mathbf{P2_1} \rightarrow \mathbf{2/m}$$

Produces a two-fold, a mirror perpendicular to it, and an inversion centre *in the diffraction pattern / reciprocal space*.

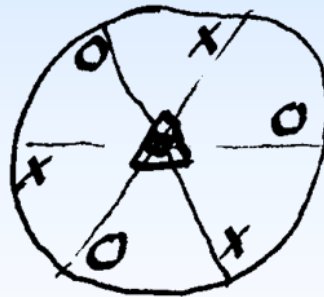


# How to describe symmetry - Stereographic Projection

$2/m$

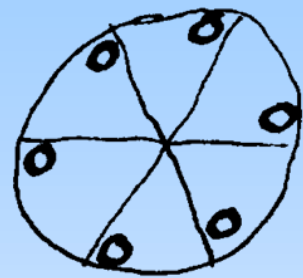


$\bar{3}$



3-fold, followed by inversion

Laue point group for P6,



6



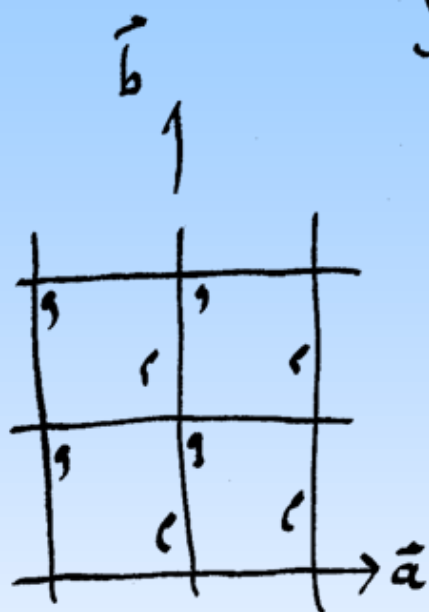
Bijvoet  
pair

6/m

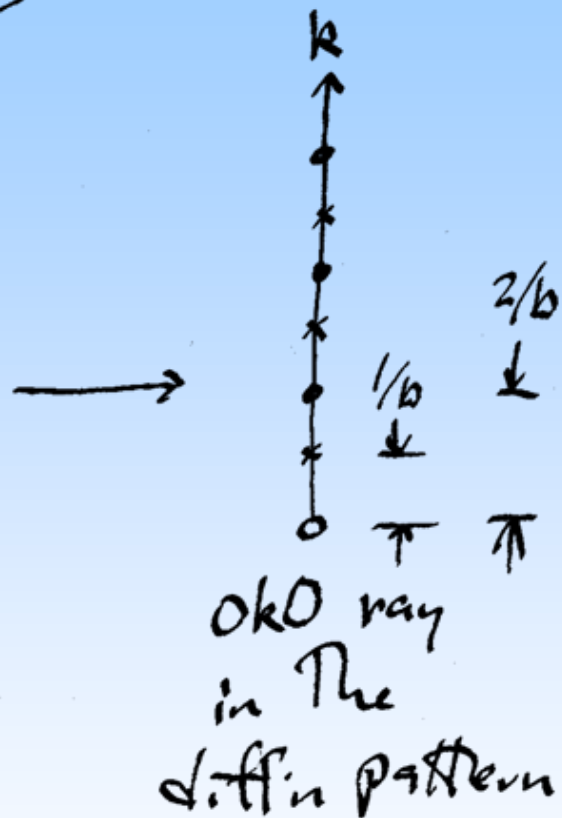
Implication of this for the experiment:

One will need only to record 1/12 of reciprocal space to get complete data. Sometimes one can record anomalously-related reflections on the same image.

# Systematic Absences

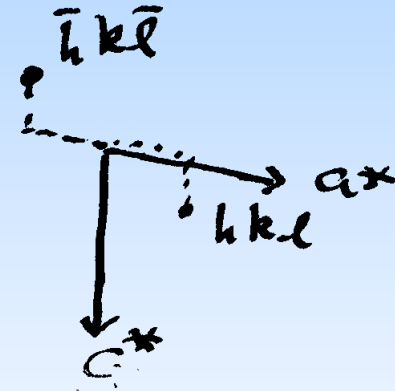
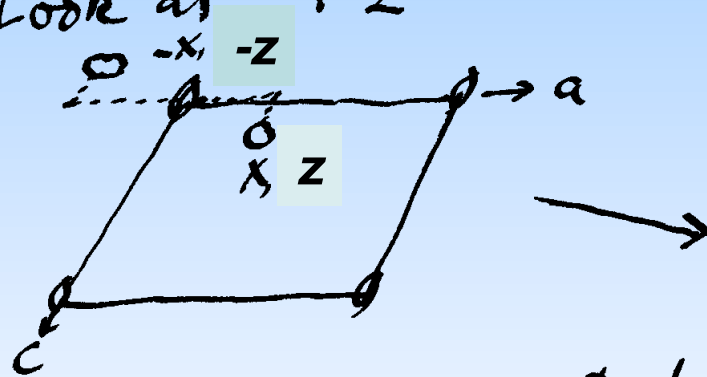


Compress  
onto  
 $b$  axis



We say, For  $0k0$ ,  
 $k = 2n$

We also can try to understand how symmetry operations affect the symmetry of the diffraction pattern.  
Look at P2:



Does this crystal symmetry produce the diffraction symmetry we predict?

Evaluate the structure factor for P2:

$$F_{hkl} = \sum_{n/2} f_j [\cos 2\pi(hx_j + ky_j + lz_j) + i \cdot \sin 2\pi(hx_j + ky_j + lz_j) \\ + \cos 2\pi(-hx_j + ky_j - lz_j) + i \cdot \sin 2\pi(-hx_j + ky_j - lz_j)]$$

Then, use:  $\sin(x \pm y) = \sin x \cdot \cos y \pm \cos x \cdot \sin y$

and  $\cos(x \pm y) = \cos x \cdot \cos y \mp \sin x \cdot \sin y$

To get:

$$F_{hkl} = 2 \sum_{n/2} f_j \cdot \cos 2\pi(hx_j + lz_j) \cdot [\cos 2\pi ky_j + i \cdot \sin 2\pi ky_j]$$

One can see that  $F_{hkl} = F_{\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l}}$  as advertised

Also notice that for **h 0 l** data, there is NO imaginary part to the structure factor. The structure factor is **PURE REAL**.



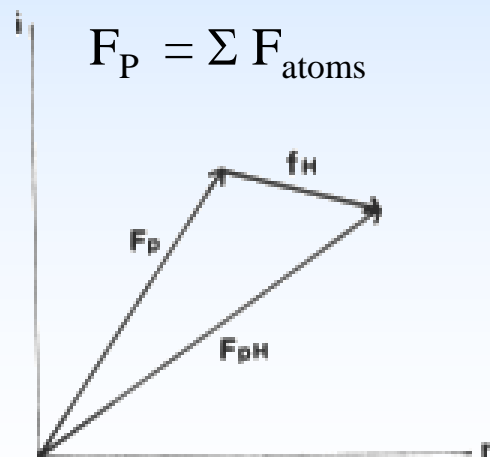
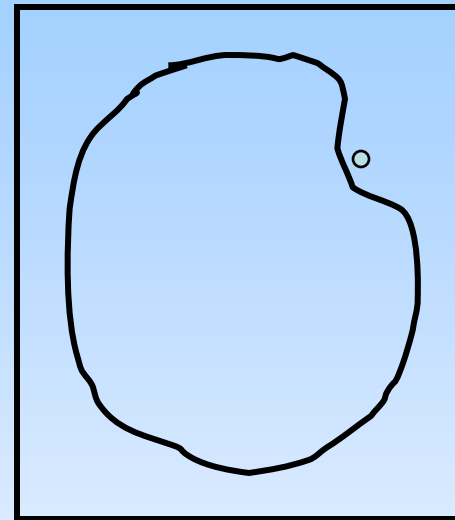
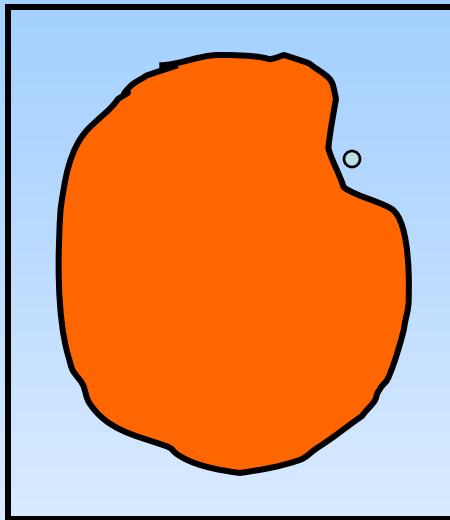
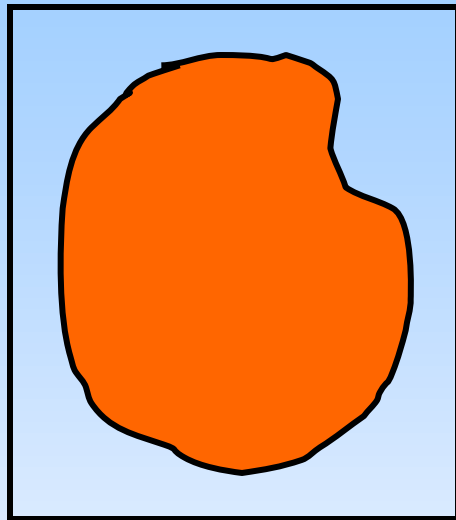
# Outline for the Lecture

- Remind you how much you already know -- lenses, crystals
- Show why crystals give diffraction spots.
- Develop the idea of “The Reciprocal Lattice”
- Give some idea how we might actually measure diffraction data
- Show how, given a crystal, we can calculate the diffraction pattern
- Conversely, show how to calculate the structure from the diffraction
- Describe the importance of symmetry to diffraction
- **Outline the structure-solving methods -- heavy atoms and MADness**

**How we solve structures? We must somehow estimate phases so we can perform the inverse Fourier transform.**

- Isomorphous Replacement with heavy atoms
- MAD/SAD, a variant of IR
- Molecular replacement if we have a decent model.

# Perutz's Fundamental Idea: Isomorphous Replacement

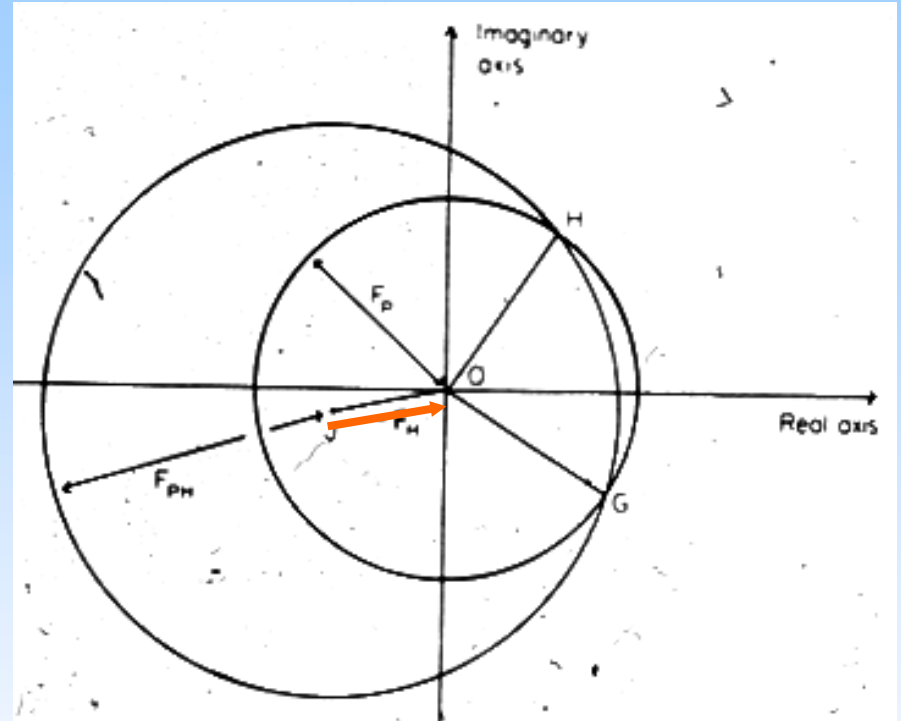
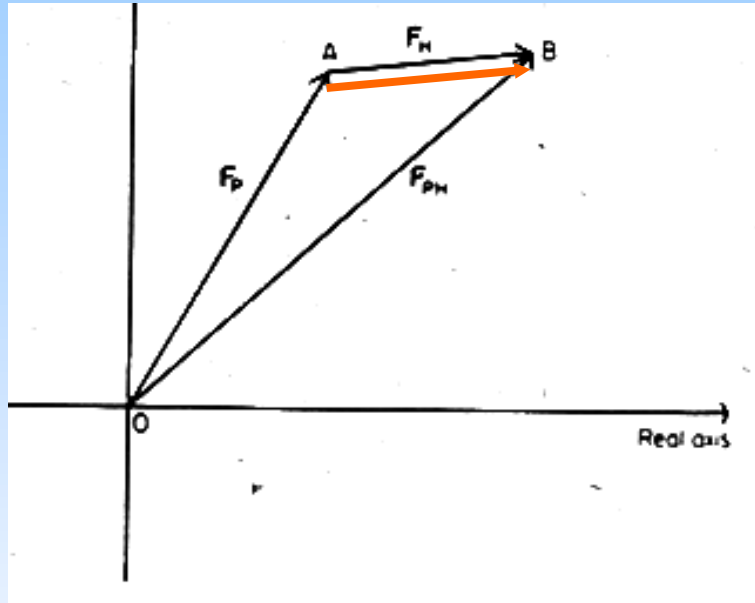


$$F_{PH} = F_P + F_H$$

$$F_H$$

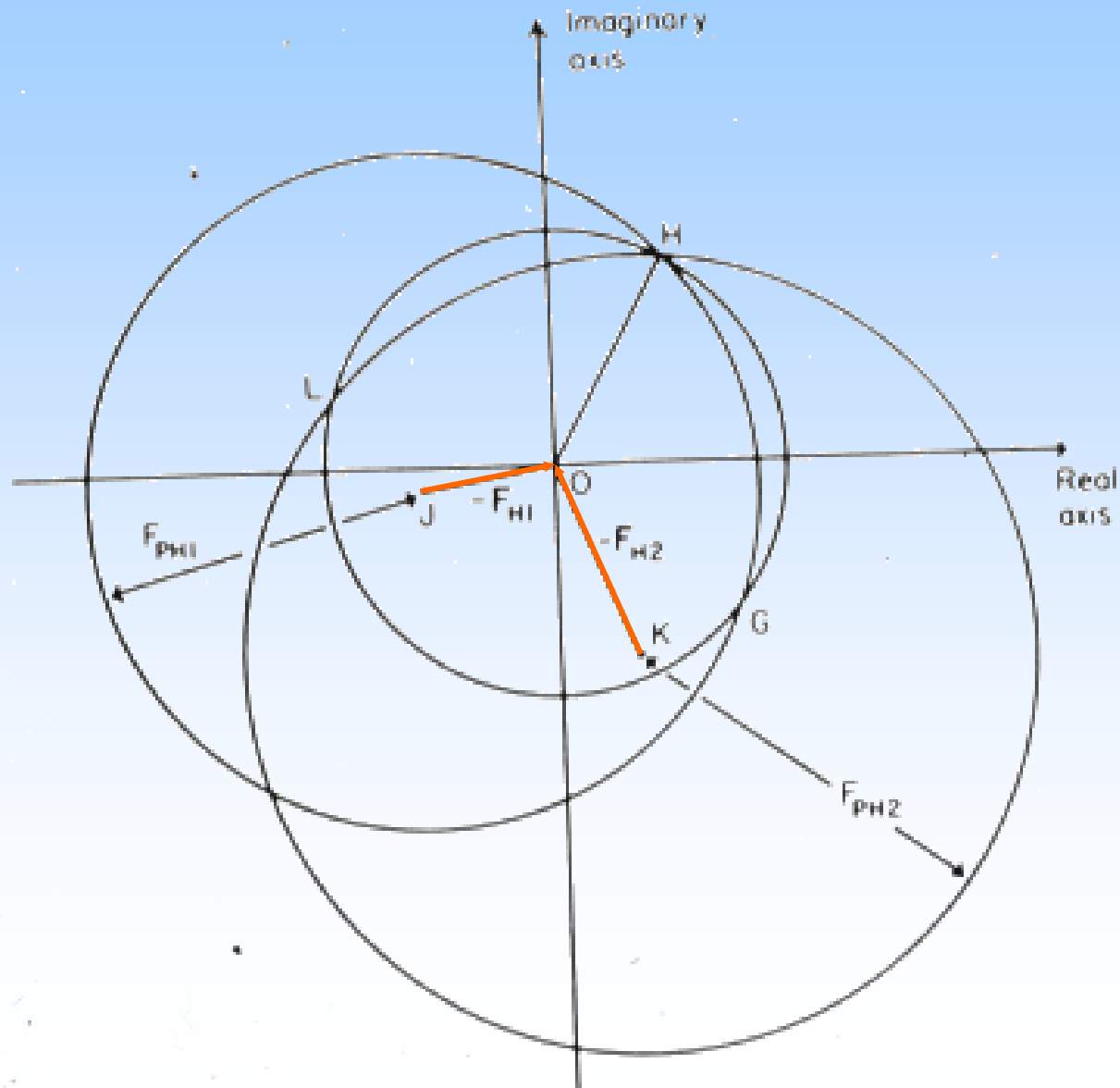
We find that, for some things, we can **approximate**  $|F_H|$  with  $|F_{PH} - F_P|$ . This often suffices for us to solve for the positions of the heavy atom as if it were a small-molecule structure.

So for some particular reflection and a particular heavy atom, we can begin to find the phase:



Knowing the position of the heavy atom allows us to calculate  $F_H$ . Then we use  $F_P = F_{PH} + (-)F_H$  to show that the phase triangles close with a **two-fold ambiguity**, at G and at H. There are several ways to resolve the ambiguity.

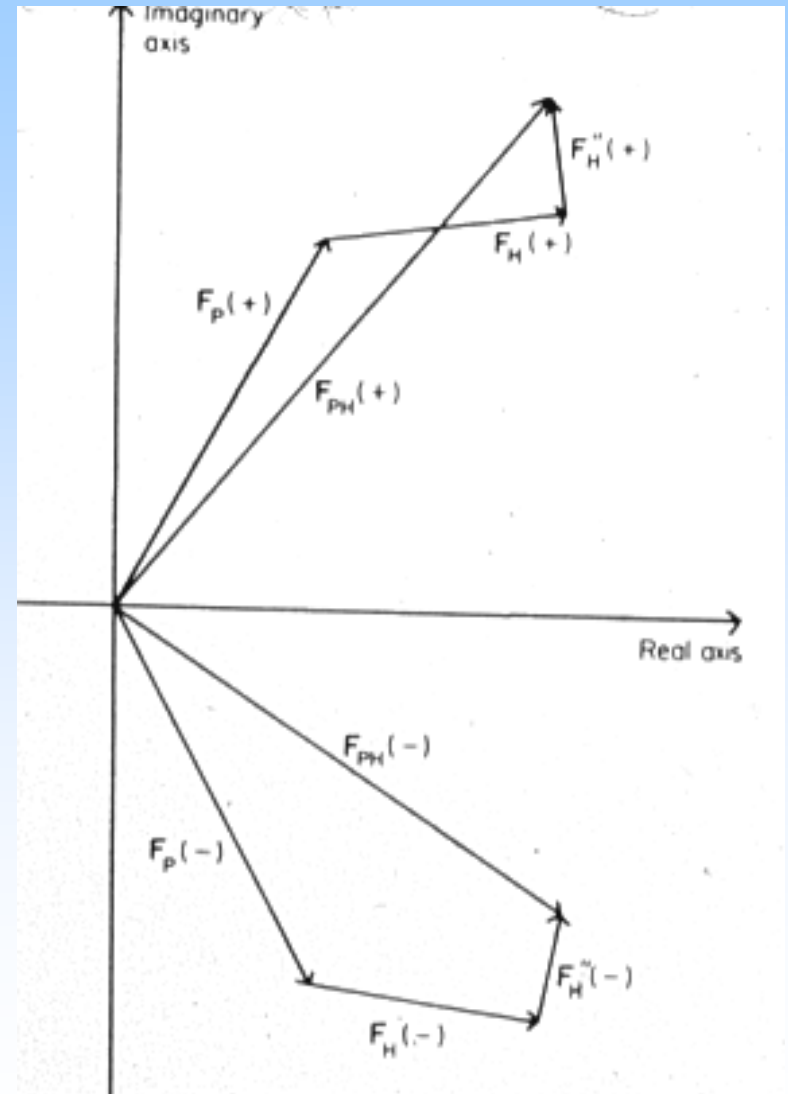
**One way to resolve the ambiguity is to use a second isomorphous heavy-atom derivative.**

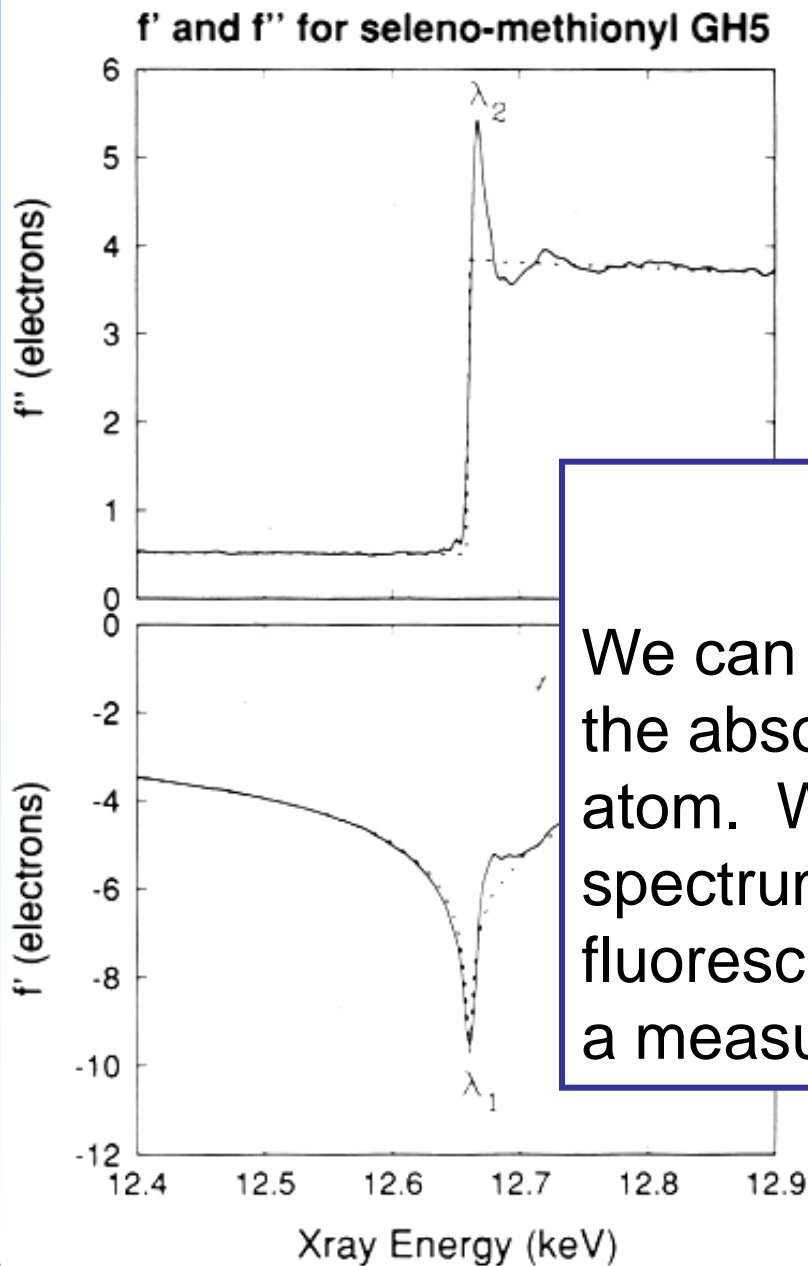




# A second technique involves use of anomalous (resonant) scattering from a heavy atom.

In this case the resonance between the electrons on the heavy atom and the x-rays cause a phase and amplitude shift. The symmetry of diffraction (from the front vs back of the Bragg planes) is broken. **Friedel's Law is broken!** This can be measured and used.





## Scattering Power

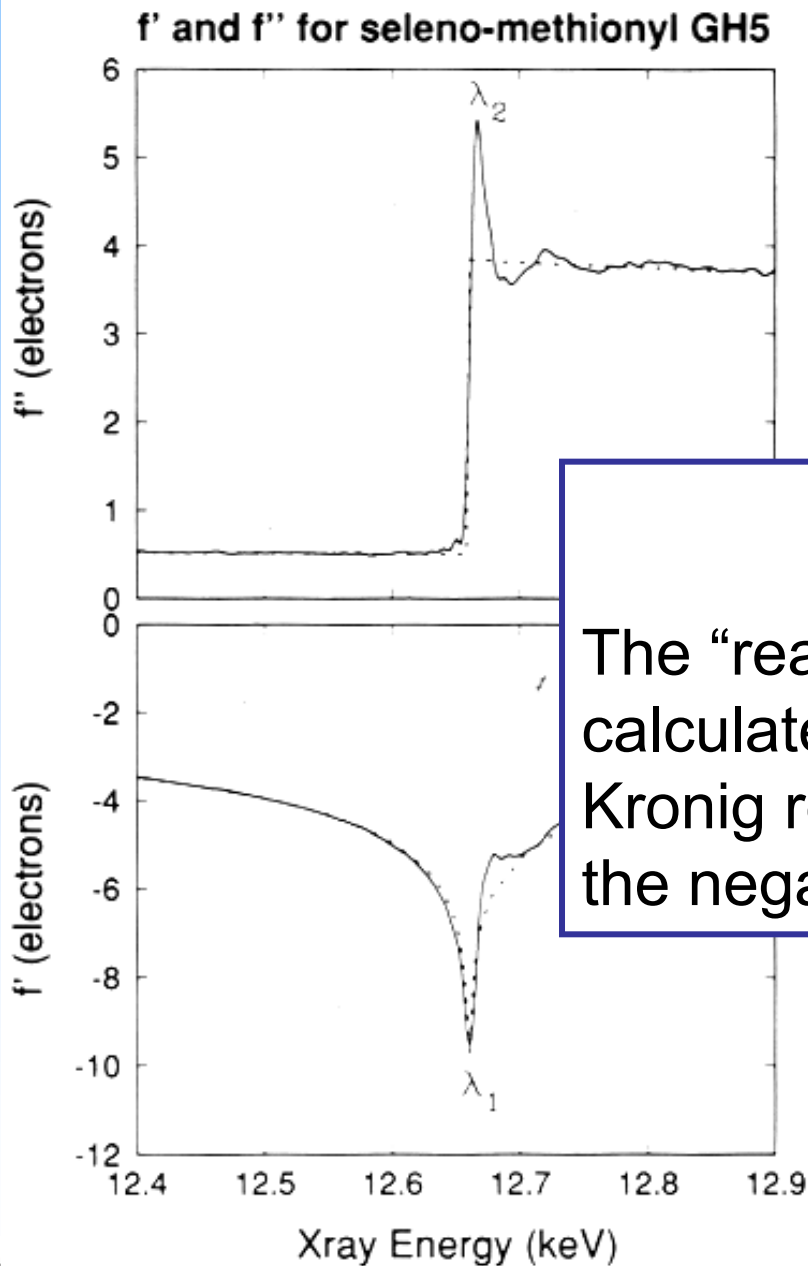
imaginary

$f^o$   
 $\Delta f'$   
 $\Delta f''$

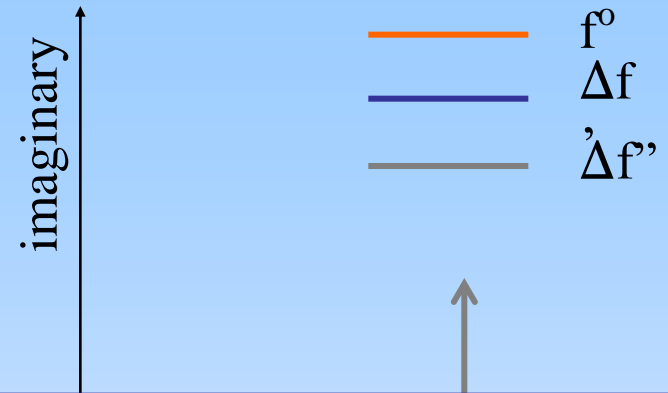
## Excitation Scans

We can observe the  $f''$  by measuring the absorption of the x-rays by the atom. We measure an “excitation” spectrum. Often we use the fluorescence of the absorbing atom as a measure of absorptivity.

x-rays as a function of the photon energy.



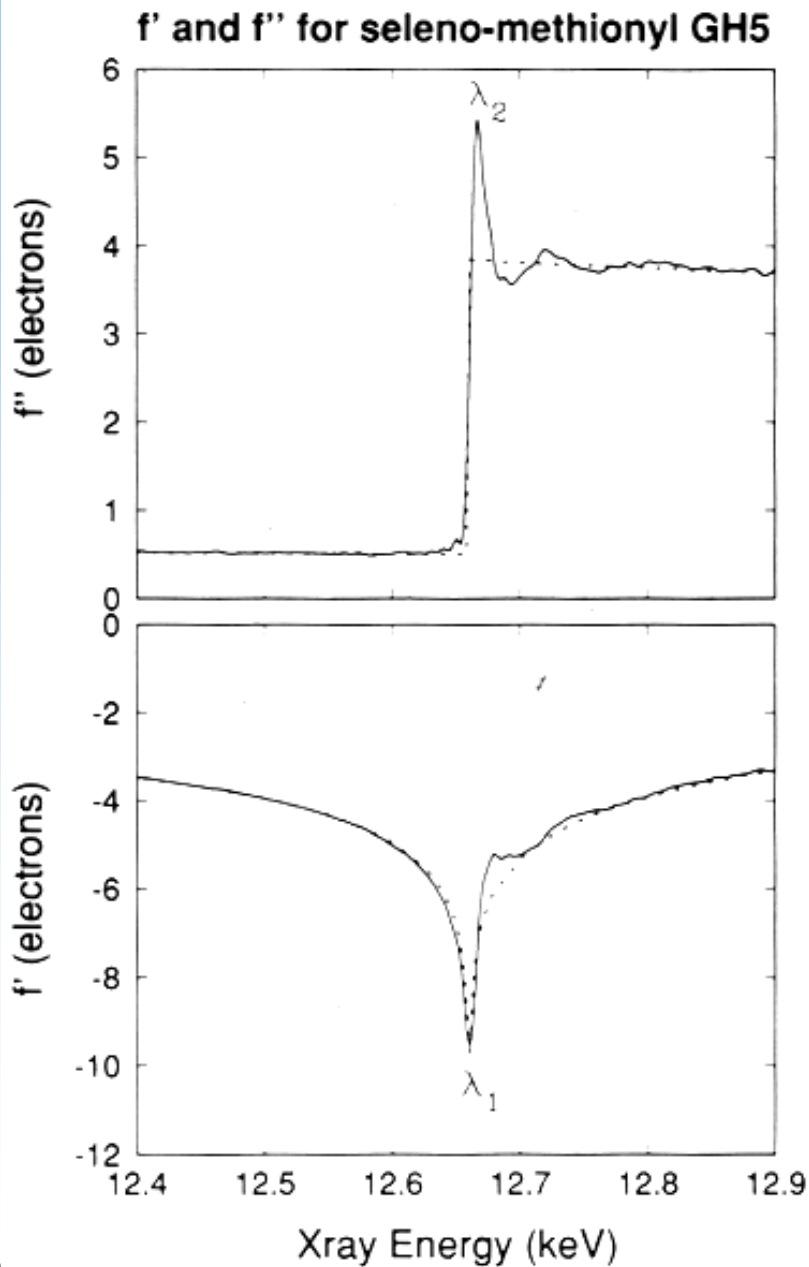
## Scattering Power



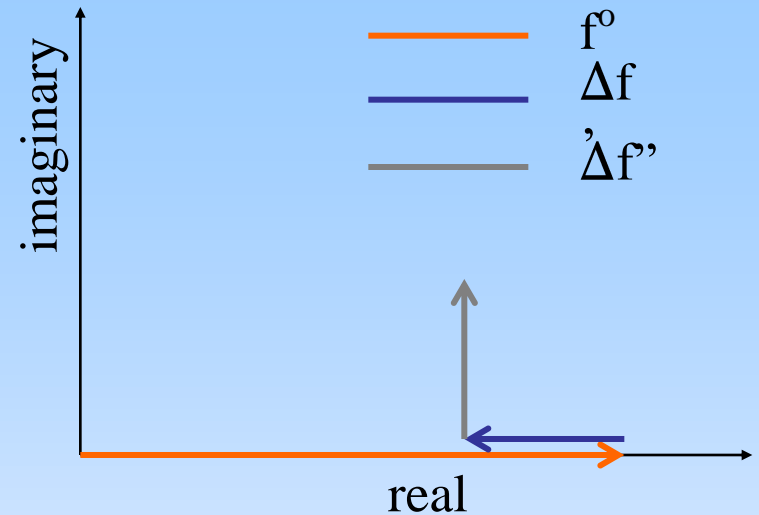
## How to get $f'$ ?

The “real,” dispersive component is calculated from  $f''$  by the Kramers-Kronig relationship. Very roughly, it's the negative first derivative of  $f''$ .

( $\Delta f'$ ) of the scattering of x-rays as a function of the photon energy.

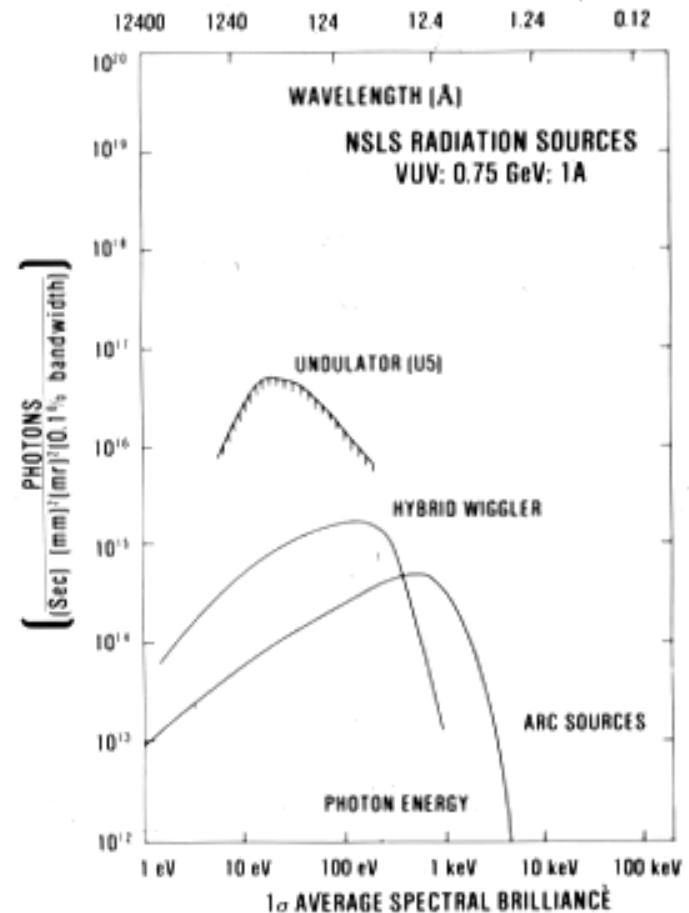
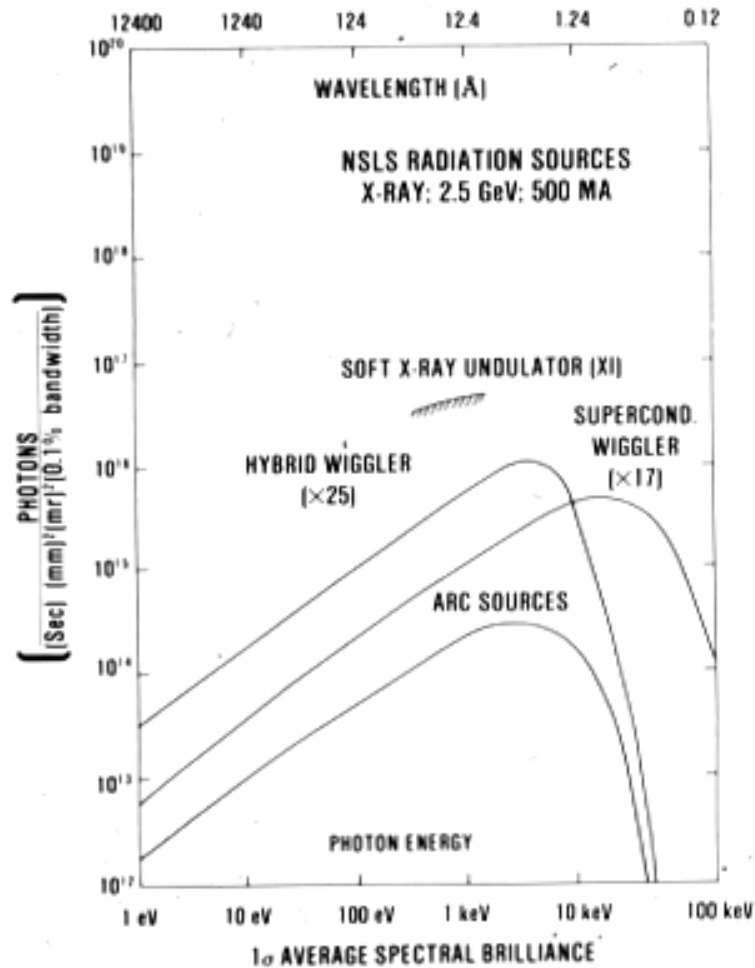


## Scattering Power



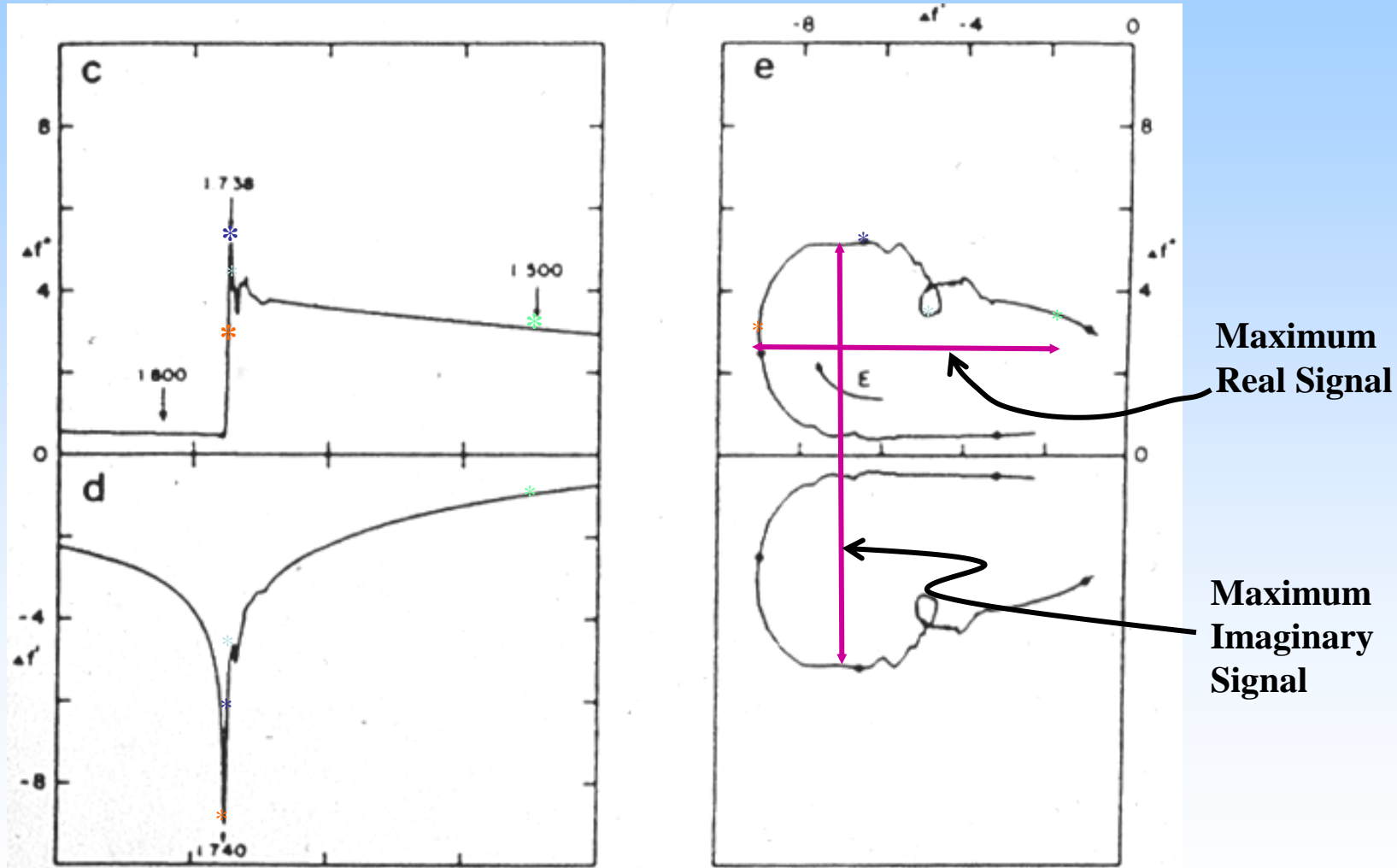
**One way to represent this resonance** is plots of the shifts in the real part ( $\Delta f'$ ) and imaginary part ( $\Delta f''$ ) of the scattering of x-rays as a function of the photon energy.

# The tunability of the synchrotron source allows us to choose precisely the energy (wavelength) we need.

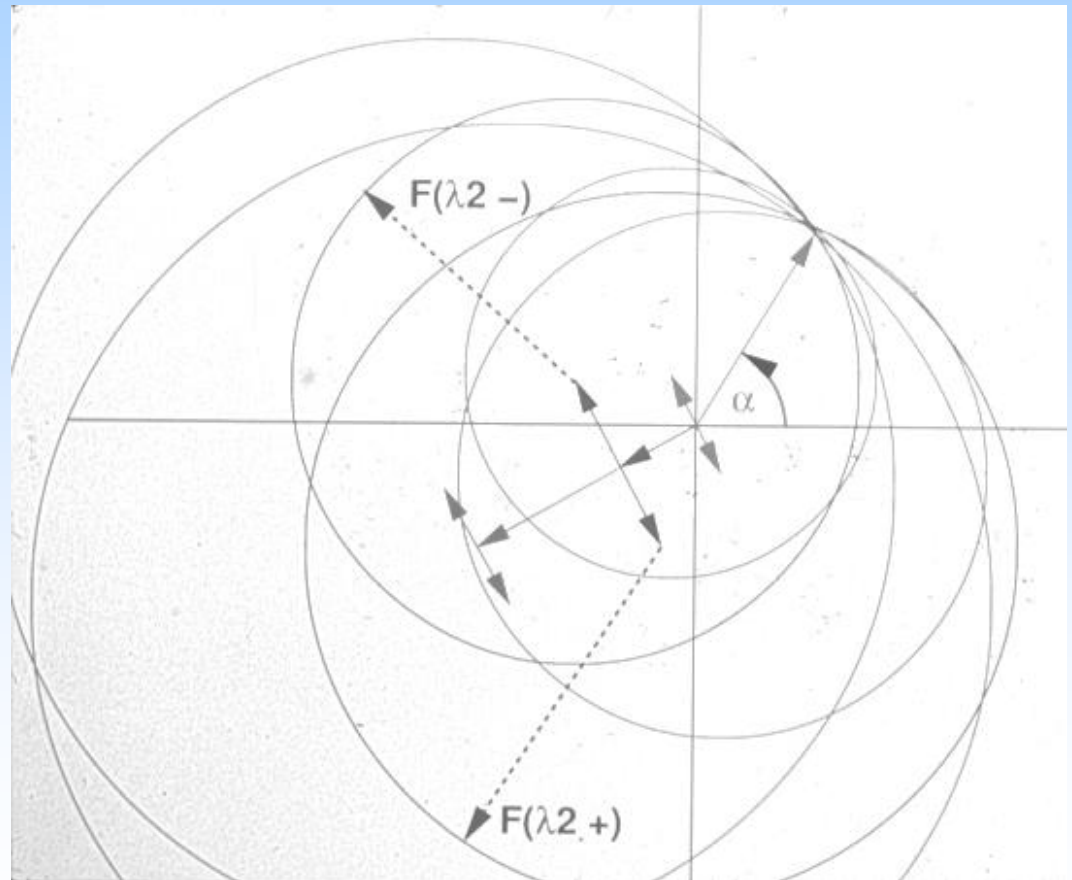
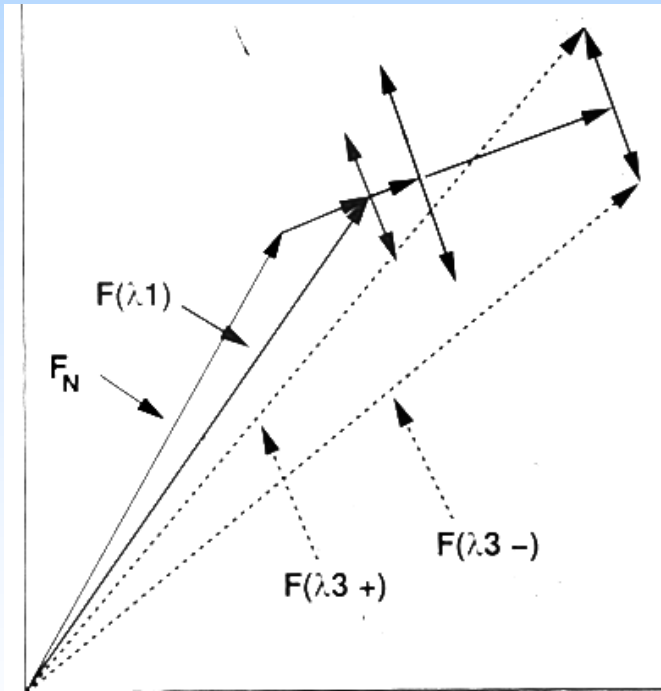




# One can see how to choose wavelengths to get large phase contrast for MAD phasing



This **M**ultiwavelength **A**nomalous **D**iffraction method often gives very strong phase information and is the source of many new structures.



# **How do we find the heavy-atom positions that allow us to do MIR or MAD phasing?**

There are generally two methods:

- Patterson-function methods
- Direct-phasing methods

Lindo Patterson saw that to interpret a diffraction pattern, he could correlate the electron density with itself:

We want to show that  $P(\vec{u}) = V \int_{\vec{r}} \rho(\vec{r}) \cdot \rho(\vec{r} + \vec{u}) d\vec{r}$   
 subs. for  $\rho(\vec{r})$

$$P(\vec{u}) = \frac{V}{V^2} \int_{\vec{r}} \left( \sum_{\vec{s}} F(\vec{s}) \exp(-2\pi i \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{\vec{s}'} F(\vec{s}') \exp(-2\pi i \vec{r} \cdot \vec{s}') \right) \exp(-2\pi i \vec{s}' \cdot \vec{u}) d\vec{r}$$

The integral is nonzero only when  $\vec{s} = -\vec{s}'$ .

So we get

$$P(\vec{u}) = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{\vec{s}} F(\vec{s}) \cdot F^*(\vec{s}) \exp(-2\pi i \vec{u} \cdot \vec{s})$$

Also, since  $|F(\vec{s})| = |F(-\vec{s})|$

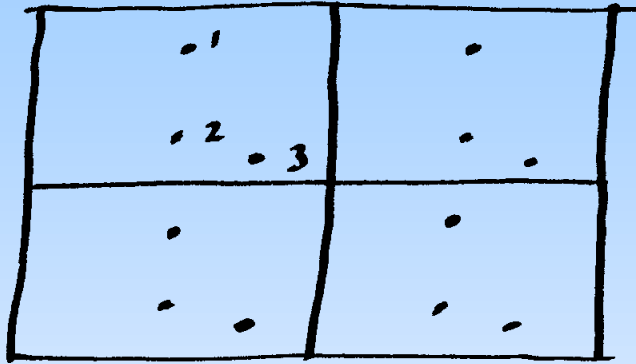
$$P(\vec{u}) = \frac{2}{V} \sum_{\vec{s}=0}^{+\infty} F^2(\vec{s}) \cos(2\pi \vec{u} \cdot \vec{s})$$

***This is the cosine transform of intensity!***

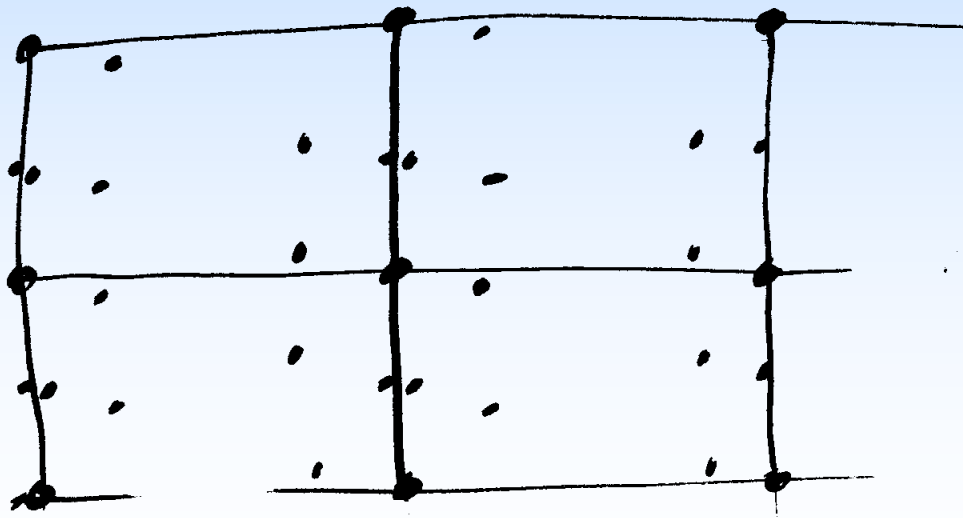
# How to interpret the Patterson Function

Consider a structure with 3 atoms

$\vec{r}$ -space



$\vec{u}$ -space



$n^2$  peaks total  
 $n$  at origin  
 $n(n-1)$  not at origin.

About the same time (all of this happened only a “short” time ago, in the '50s) David Harker saw a neat way to approach “solving” the Patterson function:

### The Harker Section

To find out the vectors you will expect – look at equiv. positions:

Example: P2, look at vectors between atoms related by U.C. symmetry

$$(x, y, z) - (\bar{x}, \frac{1}{2} + y, \bar{z}) = (2x, \frac{1}{2}, 2z)$$

The peak relating  $x$  &  $z$  will arise at  $(uvw) = (u, \frac{1}{2}, w)$  — on the  $v = \frac{1}{2}$  section.

***This method is the basis of software such as HEAVY (Terwilliger)***



# To Recapitulate

- **You already knew something** -- lenses, crystals.
- Crystals give ordered arrays of diffraction spots because the **molecules are in ordered arrays**.
- The **Reciprocal Lattice is a mathematical metaphor** for sets of lattice planes that obey Braggs' Law.
- We actually measure diffraction data just by **rotating the crystal** in the x-ray beam and recording diffraction, a lot like a CAT scan.
- Simple mathematics, which turns out to be the **Fourier transform**, allows us to calculate the diffraction pattern
  - and, conversely, to calculate the structure from the diffraction.
- The use of heavy atoms, and sometimes resonant effects, allow us to **measure phases** to solve the structures.

**But I can tell you this, if you really  
want to learn it...**

**Teach It!**